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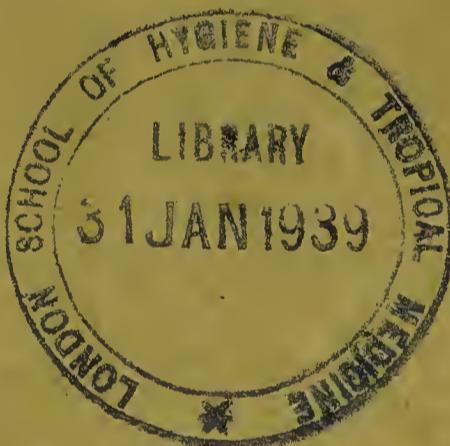
No. 1874

Annual Report on the Social and Economic  
Progress of the People of

MAURITIUS, 1937

(For Reports for 1935 and 1936 see Nos. 1770 and 1828  
respectively (Price 2s. od. each).)

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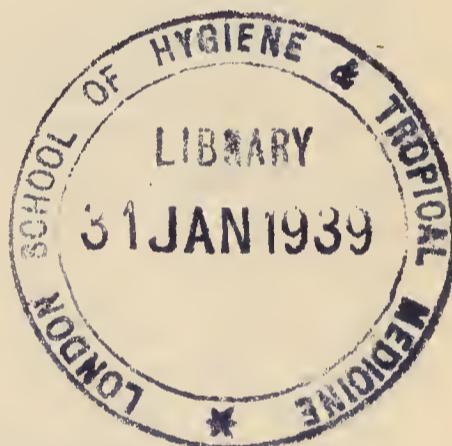
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# MAURITIUS

## REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1937

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### I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between  $19^{\circ} 50'$  and  $20^{\circ} 35'$  S. latitude and between  $57^{\circ} 18'$  and  $57^{\circ} 48'$  E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles, exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about four square miles.

The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, had a population estimated at 9,977 on 31st December, 1937. The estimated population of the lesser dependencies on that date was 1,411.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar-cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forests of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called maroons were formed. The combination of rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin, uncontrolled by any tribal or political system, proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de Labourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops and barracks. Labourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755, large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritius sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842, Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who at the beginning of 1937 owned 38·4 per cent. of the whole area under sugar-cane. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artizan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle Phytalus Smithi was discovered in the sugar-cane.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the war brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in the better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendation that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The position became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. The situation was again critical in 1934 owing to the effect of a severe drought on the sugar crop; but since then the Colony has had the benefit of substantial crops and the general situation and outlook would have considerably improved were it not for the low price of sugar.

## II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council including unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was

composed of the Governor, eight *ex-officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represent the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect is made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. The new Letters Patent, however, provide that the Governor shall have power to enact legislation considered by him to be essential in the interests of good government. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex-officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing two unofficial members to the Council was revived.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1937, was 9,290. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter:—

- (1) has attained the age of 21 years;
- (2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights;
- (3) is a British subject by birth or naturalization;
- (4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications:—
  - (a) is the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs.300;
  - (b) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month;
  - (c) is the owner of moveable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.3,000;
  - (d) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications;
  - (e) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs.50 and
  - (f) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities, by the "Assemblée Coloniale." These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the "Assemblée Coloniale," on 21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and were denominated the "Conseil des Notables." The "Conseil des Notables" was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the "Conseil des Communes" and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge "La Triple Esperance" from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limits of the townships for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes in the extra urban areas.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into (1) the general population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African, Chinese and mixed origins, and (2) the Indian population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants.

The estimated population of the island and its Dependencies on the 31st December, 1937, was 413,459, showing an increase of 2,539, the rate of increase being 6·2 per 1,000.

The geographical distribution of the population is shown in the following table:—

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Districts.	Area in square miles.	Census population, 26th April, 1931.			Population on 31st December, 1937.		
		General population.	Indian population.	Total.	General population.	Indian population.	Total.
Port Louis ...	... ...	16½	29,832	54,435	31,552	24,648	56,200
Pamplemousses ...	... ...	69	6,847	36,847	6,569	28,805	35,374
Riviere du Rempart ...	... ...	57	5,518	25,274	5,953	26,563	32,516
Flacq ...	... ...	115	10,438	42,202	10,813	40,286	51,099
Grand Port ...	... ...	100½	12,484	36,135	13,070	35,249	48,319
Savanne ...	... ...	94½	6,645	24,456	31,101	6,975	24,123
Plaines Wilhems ...	... ...	78½	41,866	53,392	95,258	58,054	104,479
Moka ...	... ...	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,922	29,782
Black River ...	... ...	100	5,437	8,826	14,263	5,463	7,741
Total—Mauritius ...	... ...	720	124,589	268,649	132,742	393,238	402,071
Rodrigues ...	... ...	40	8,084	118	8,202	9,696	281
Minor Dependencies ...	... ...	47	1,354	103	1,457	1,320	91
Grand Total—Dependencies ...	...	87	9,438	221	9,659	11,016	372
GRAND TOTAL—Mauritius and Dependencies —	—	134,027	268,870	402,897	143,758	269,701	413,459

The preponderance of males in the Indian population and that of females in the general population is shown in the next table.

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Mauritius—General population		...	64,953	67,789	132,742
Indian	"	...	138,889	130,440	269,329
Rodrigues—General	"	...	4,747	4,949	9,696
Indian	"	...	183	98	281
Minor Dependencies—General population		...	808	512	1,320
Indian	"	...	69	22	91
		Totals	209,649	203,810	413,459

The following tables give the number of births, deaths and still-births registered in Mauritius during the last three years.

#### BIRTHS.

		<i>Number of births.</i>			<i>Rate per 1,000 of population.</i>		
		<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1937.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1937.</i>
General population	...	4,498	4,758	4,774	34·9	36·4	36·3
Indian	"	8,748	9,109	9,323	32·9	34·1	34·7
Whole population	...	13,246	13,867	14,097	33·6	34·9	35·2

#### DEATHS.

		<i>Number of deaths.</i>			<i>Rate per 1,000 of population.</i>		
		<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1937.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1937.</i>
General population	...	2,954	3,039	3,505	22·9	23·3	26·6
Indian	"	7,491	7,461	8,022	28·2	27·9	29·9
Whole population	...	10,445	10,500	11,527	26·5	26·4	28·8

#### STILL-BIRTHS.

		<i>Number of still-births.</i>			<i>Rate per 100 live births.</i>		
		<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1937.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1937.</i>
General population	...	297	300	296	6·6	6·3	6·2
Indian	"	1,004	1,021	1,009	11·5	11·2	10·8
Whole population	...	1,301	1,321	1,305	9·8	9·5	9·3

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 2,178. The infantile mortality rate was 154·5 per thousand live births registered during the year as compared with 142·3 and 139·4 for 1936 and 1935 respectively.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,951 as compared with 1,991 in 1936. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every thousand of the entire population was 9·8 against 10·0 in 1936.

The departures exceeded the arrivals by 327.

**IV.—HEALTH.**

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-5 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

The headquarters staff of the Department consists of the Director, the Deputy Director and the clerical and accounting staffs of the correspondence, financial and storekeeping branches.

The administrative unit of Government is the district which is the political unit as well. Every district with the exception of Black River is provided with a hospital for the reception and treatment of the sick poor. Patients from the Black River district are treated in the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, or the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. The medical and sanitary administration of each of the rural districts is entrusted to a Government Medical Officer who is in charge of the district hospital and dispensaries and who is also the Health Officer for the district. To assist him, he has a number of subordinate officers; dressers and sanitary officers and the staff necessary for the care of the patients in the hospital. In addition to his medical and sanitary duties he has also statutory duties of a medical or sanitary nature which he carries out on behalf of the Police and Poor Law Departments. The district dispensaries are visited at regular intervals by the Government Medical Officer.

The hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups:—

- (i) General hospitals, namely:—Civil, Victoria and Moka, totalling 637 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work; and
- (ii) district hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or other, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulance. A mental hospital and a leper hospital are also administered by the Department.

The general health of the population during 1937 has been reasonably good. There was again an exceptionally good crop leading to a consequent increase in the amount of money circulating in the Colony. There has been no scarcity of food and the general economic condition of the people, though low, has not been bad.

The principal diseases affecting the population are hookworm disease and malaria.

The prevention of hookworm disease has ceased to be a matter in which the central government can usefully intervene. With the abolition of the system of preparing for agricultural use, manure whose chief constituent was human excrement, the widespread infection with hookworm of the canefields ceased. Naturally, some years were required for the cleansing of the soil but it may now be safely presumed that hookworm disease is seldom contracted in the canefields. The problem has now become one of personal hygiene, dependent upon a radical change in the personal habits of a very conservative and still ignorant people. The influence of education and propaganda on an agricultural population whose standard of living is definitely low is practically negligible. It is only when a man becomes fairly prosperous that he feels the need to modify his habits according to the new standards of living to which his increased prosperity has raised him. Thus, though the majority of the rural inhabitants have provided their premises with latrines the proper use of which would undoubtedly prevent hookworm infection, they have not yet habituated themselves to their use.

But though the prevention of the disease is now in the ineffectual hands of the rural population, the Government can still institute measures for its control. By the frequent and extensive treatment of the rural population with appropriate drugs the Government ensures that a large percentage of them are periodically released from the infestation to which their blind adherence to custom makes them liable. The hookworm-malaria branch of the Department undertakes mass treatment of the rural population and in this way ensures for those who are willing to take the treatment a certain degree of relief from the consequences of their hygienic shortcomings. Concurrently with the administration of treatment, the staff of the branch hammer home the principles of prevention, but this part of the campaign shows little sign of being effective so long as the general economic level of the population is low. During the year 191,226 treatments were given.

*Malaria.*—In 1932 the malaria situation in the Colony was reviewed in the light of past colonial experience and of the new information which had become available through the labours of the Malaria Committee of the League of Nations in Europe. As a result of this review it became evident that much energy was being dissipated by the institution of inappropriate measures and the maintenance of old drainage works whose usefulness had disappeared, either on account of their having been established in areas where such treatment was uneconomic or inappropriate or because subsequent events had nullified their effectiveness. It was accordingly decided to apply to the different regions of the Colony the measures which in the light of the new experience were likely to produce the most effective return

for the energy expended. In practice this has meant the virtual abandonment of anti-mosquito measures throughout the greater part of the rural areas lying below 600 feet altitude. Here the object of the Government is to make totaquina as widely available as possible so that sufferers may be able to obtain the treatment which they need. In a few populous places old drainage works of known effectiveness are maintained, but no new works are being undertaken in the meantime.

In most of the region lying higher than 600 feet anti-mosquito work is feasible, on account of the density of the population and of the effects of the cool season in restricting to practical numbers the permanent mosquito nurseries in the area. This area has now been the subject of close study for the past three years and it has been found that most of the mosquito nuisances are not such as require extensive permanent drainage works for their abatement. The problem on the central plateau is not the abolition or the treatment of large natural mosquito-breeding places but the abolition of innumerable small nuisances created and maintained by human agency. The area is strewn with gardens and small holdings on each of which there are maintained collections of water in the shape of watering tubs, barrels, tanks or pits. Of these the pits of the market gardens are the worst offenders as they have been repeatedly found to contain larvae of *A. costalis*. Water receptacles of this kind are quite unnecessary in this area because practically every house or garden has a piped water supply. In fact most of the storage receptacles are filled from the pipe. The hookworm-malaria branch has been fully occupied in attempting to deal with this nuisance, but progress must necessarily be slow. Nevertheless control of such water collections is essential for control of malaria in this locality.

## V.—HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (a) housing on estates, (b) housing in rural areas not estates, and (c) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts, constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult. The lines must be kept clear of weeds,

and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least ten feet round them. Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes. As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. Lighting is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas other than estates is fairly satisfactory. The Indian labourer can himself with the aid of his friends construct a satisfactory hut. He generally owns the piece of land on which he builds his hut and what is not occupied by the hut is planted with sugar cane or other agricultural produce, while room is also found for a primitive byre or a shelter for goats. The amenities of life are few, and a locality settled by a number of such persons bristles with sanitary problems arising out of poverty. Fortunately, most of them are now on a pipe-line so that their water supply gives little cause for anxiety, though they may have to carry their water several hundred yards from the nearest public fountain.

In the towns and townships conditions vary. There are areas of overcrowding with its consequent insanitary conditions. Too many persons live in one room though the climate is such as to obviate many of the evils attendant upon this practice.

## VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Weather conditions were, generally, very favourable to growth: high temperature and rainfall prevailed throughout the growing season. Unfortunately, the persistency of these conditions during the ripening season was detrimental to the sucrose content of the cane.

The industries of the Colony are, almost exclusively agricultural and sugar forms over 98 per cent. of its exports. Irrespective of sugar, the other industries comprise tobacco, fibre, pineapple, tea, coconut and, as by-product of the sugar industry, alcohol. Details regarding the various industries are reviewed below.

The total area of the Colony is 460,800 acres of which some 144,000 acres are in sugar cane, 35,000 acres in secondary crops. The area at present cultivated could with proper irrigation be increased by roughly 4 to 5 per cent.

### Sugar Production.

The total cane reaped approximated 2,823 thousand metric tons, in excess by 276 thousand tons on last year's production: this year's output thus exceeds all previous records. The sucrose content of the cane was, however, considerably below last year's, averaging only 12.99 as against 13.71 in 1936.

The mean extraction of sugar per cent. of cane was 11.12 as against 11.79 last year. The total output of sugar was 313.82 thousand metric tons in excess by 4.5 per cent. on last year's.

The following table exhibits the comparative production for the past seven years.

### YIELD OF SUGAR IN THOUSAND METRIC TONS.

Districts.	1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.	1933.	1932.	1931.
<b>Pamplemousses and</b>							
Riviere du Rempart	82.65	63.97	69.97	30.13	57.77	62.73	41.81
Flacq ... ...	48.16	49.98	44.15	30.87	41.31	35.97	27.91
Moka ... ...	37.72	43.42	35.76	29.30	40.08	34.12	20.83
Plaines Wilhems ...	22.49	21.89	20.62	11.54	18.22	17.05	11.64
Black River ...	13.81	12.85	11.28	5.99	8.88	9.06	6.29
Grand Port ...	57.23	56.10	53.39	38.37	50.66	46.66	28.52
Savanne ... ...	51.76	52.13	45.34	32.66	44.48	41.63	27.01
Totals ...	<hr/> 313.82	<hr/> 300.34	<hr/> 280.50	<hr/> 178.86	<hr/> 261.46	<hr/> 247.22	<hr/> 164.01

The deficit in 1931, due to a severe cyclone, was estimated at 34 per cent. In 1934, there was a severe drought.

*Grades of Sugar.*—The proportion of Raws was, this year, 83.7 per cent. of the total sugar production; granulated whites (Vesous) were 16.0 per cent.; while low sugars approximated 0.3 per cent.

*Area under Sugar Cane.*—While most of the alienated land of the Colony passed under private ownership by means of “concessions” during the French occupation, most of the land occupied by Indian small planters was acquired under the “metayage” and “morcellement” systems, whereby large estates were parcelled out to numbers of tenants who became, after a term of years, legal owners of their plots of land. The “metayage” or “morcellement” systems are still practised though on a much reduced scale.

At the beginning of 1937, the area under cane was estimated at 143,497 acres, in excess by 4,156 acres on the figure for 1936. Estates with factory cultivated 62,089 acres; estates without factory, 38,978 acres, giving a total estate cultivation of 101,067 acres, in excess by 3,456 acres on the corresponding figure for 1936.

The balance of 42,430 acres, which shows an increase of 700 acres on the corresponding figure for the year previous, was cultivated by smaller planters, mostly Indian peasant proprietors.

The total area under Indian cultivation at the beginning of 1937 was estimated at 55,053 acres or 38.4 per cent. of the

total area under cane. This total was made up of (i) 35,730 acres belonging to Indian small planters off estates, (ii) 10,223 acres cultivated by Indians on estate lands and lastly, (iii) estates, belonging to Indians, comprising altogether 9,100 acres.

*Number of Sugar Factories.*—During the year, two more factories were dismantled, bringing the total, at the close of 1937, to 38. Sixteen factories were closed during the past 16 years.

*Sugar Market.*—Market conditions were, upon the whole, decidedly better in 1937 than in 1936, although, during the last months of the year quotations came down markedly. The average net price realised in 1936 was Rs. 5.69 per 50 kilos; in 1937, the average net price realised by 31st December, on 243,892 metric tons sold by that date approximated to Rs. 6.20 per 50 kilos.

Sugar transactions are made through the "Mauritius Sugar Syndicate" which controls practically all the sugar of the Colony.

#### *Disposal of the 1936-7 Sugars and Local Consumption.*

The total sugar exported during the 1936-7 year (1st August, 1936, to 31st July, 1937) amounted to 289,010 metric tons, distributed as follows:—

					<i>Metric tons.</i>
Great Britain ...	...	...	...	...	271,820
Canada ...	...	...	...	...	16,530
Hong Kong ...	...	...	...	...	660
					<hr/>
	Total	...	...	...	289,010
					<hr/>

The exportation of the 1937-8 crop, up to 31st December, 1937, was as follows:—

					<i>Metric tons.</i>
Great Britain ...	...	...	...	...	134,566
Canada ...	...	...	...	...	22,415
Hong Kong ...	...	...	...	...	457
Other places ...	...	...	...	...	119
					<hr/>
	Total	...	...	...	157,557
					<hr/>

The local consumption of sugar for the 1936-7 year was 10,326 metric tons as compared with 9,327 in 1935-6 and 11,211 in 1934-5.

*Sugar Machinery.*—Machinery to the value of Rs. 914,545 was imported during the year, as against Rs. 589,449 in 1936. Tramway material to the value of Rs. 128,059 was imported in 1937, as compared with Rs. 328,219 the year previous.

### General Agricultural Matters.

*Fertilizers.*—The importation of chemical fertilizers in 1937 totalled 19,818,236 kilos, valued at Rs.2,117,295 as compared with 21,588,262 kilos valued at Rs.2,078,332 in 1936.

*Insect Pests.*—Following the extension of the abolition of hand collection of *Phytalus smithi*, Arr. to more than 80 per cent. of the infested areas, efforts to increase the natural control of this pest have been redoubled. The Second Phytalus Officer has spent seven months in South Africa and the Assistant Entomologist has recently embarked upon a further mission to Zanzibar and North Africa, in order to discover sources of fresh parasite material.

Apart from these measures, efforts are also made to introducing parasite resistant cane varieties in the infested areas.

The Moth borer situation still causes anxiety and the Entomologist was requested to prepare a comprehensive scheme of borer control by biological means.

A serious outbreak of tobacco beetle was reported from the Government Tobacco Warehouse and fumigation with hydrocyanic acid was carried out successfully in the most affected part of the stores.

Coconut palms, in all parts of the Colony are suffering severely from the attacks of *Aspidiotus destructor* Sign and every effort is being made to increase the natural control of this pest.

*Plant Diseases.*—Bacterial diseases on maize and palm turned out this year to be of major importance as the plants mentioned have been proved to be natural hosts of the sugar cane gumming disease bacterium. The presence of these wild hosts complicate the problem of eradication of the gumming disease on cane from the Island.

Black shank and mosaic diseases of tobacco were somewhat less troublesome than in previous years. Wilt of the pineapple is apparently brought about in the Island by different causes, such as conditions of soil and climate; what may be another type of the disease is receiving attention.

*Tobacco.*—During the year, permits for 699 acres were issued and 661 acres were actually planted.

A general quota of 500 kilos per acre was allocated, which limited the crop to 349,625 kilos: but, in view of favourable conditions the quota had been, by the end of the year, exceeded by 128,000 kilos.

The amount of leaf purchased by the warehouse in 1937 was 391,435 kilos of a value of Rs.487,239 as compared with 375,923 kilos of a value of Rs.475,326 in the previous year. The above

figures do not include the leaf delivered in excess of the quota: the total quantity of leaf actually received at the warehouse was 519,435 kilos.

The amount of leaf used by manufacturers was 329,233 kilos as compared with 321,544 kilos in 1936.

But little progress was made in obtaining a type of tobacco suitable for the export market. Trials with new varieties were continued and a more extensive research scheme considered and proposals put forward.

*Fibre.*—Market conditions were fairly satisfactory during the first half of 1937: but from July onwards they deteriorated until, in December, there was practically no market. The total exported in 1937 was 1,617 metric tons as against 1,214 in 1936 and 446 in 1935.

A committee has been appointed to investigate the conditions under which the bag factory might be reopened. The work of the committee is still in progress.

*Pineapple Industry.*—Appreciable progress is in evidence regarding this industry. At the end of the year 11 acres of experimental plantations had been carried out by the Department of Agriculture. A large amount of planting material will be available this year and it is expected that the area under pineapple will be increased. The Fruit Canning Factory anticipates for 1937-8 a total turn out of 4,500 cases or about 108 tons.

*Tea Industry.*—Conditions continue favourable concerning this industry. At the end of the year, the total area under tea approximated to 440 acres and the total produce for 1936-7 was about 50 thousand kilos (metric).

*Coconut Industry.*—The export of copra—produce of the Dependencies of Mauritius—amounted during the year to 1,507 tons valued at Rs.350,012 as against 1,331·5 tons valued at Rs.229.884 in 1936. The export of coconut oil during the year was 5,731 litres valued at Rs.2,353, as compared with 7,113 litres valued at Rs.2,686 in 1936.

*Alcohol.*—The total quantity of alcohol distilled for human consumption amounted to 593,396 litres as against 651,727 the year before. The quantity distilled for industrial purposes was 603,192 litres as against 483,820 in 1936. The exportation of rum during the year was 84,210 litres valued at Rs.27,181 as compared with 39,619 litres valued at Rs.8,776 in 1936.

*Veterinary and Livestock.*—At the beginning of 1937 the total horned cattle on estates numbered 13,646 as against 14,195 at the beginning of 1936.

Cattle importation from Madagascar amounted to 5,967 heads, valued at Rs.335,758, all of which was for beef.

An agreement between Government and the Stock Breeders' Association has been arrived at, following the recommendations of Professor Lindsay Robb, of Pretoria University, and steps are being taken for the importation of beef type bulls and heifers, with the idea of increasing the local meat production. Consideration is also being given to the improvement of pastures in the Colony.

*The Agricultural College.*—The Mauritius Agricultural College is administered as an integral part of the Department of Agriculture. Experimental fields and farms cover about 60 acres. Laboratories provide accommodation for teaching and research in Chemistry, Entomology, Botany, Mycology, Physics and Sugar Technology.

A three year course leads to the Diploma of the College. Short courses in the intercrop period are provided for estate employees and special courses for agricultural and sugar house chemists. The examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute in sugar technology are held annually at the College and the full Technological Certificate of the Institute is awarded to graduates of the Agricultural College who pass successfully the final examination of the Institute in Sugar Technology.

Most past students of the College have been absorbed in the local sugar industry while a few have obtained situations abroad or in Government. The practical value of the training received at the College is now showing its effects and, on several estates, the Diploma of the College has been made a *sine qua non* condition for employment.

In 1937, the regular students on the books numbered 21, together with six part-time students. Present accommodation limits the total number to a maximum of 30. In recent years, the applications for studentships have been considerably in excess of the accommodation available and new entrants have been selected through a competitive examination, up to a total number limited to seven or eight.

*The Sugar Cane Research Station.*—This station was opened in 1930, with the objects of producing superior varieties of sugar cane, of investigating soil properties with a view to introducing improved cultivation and manurial methods and of conducting research into the physiology of the cane.

As a result of the cane breeding work, five varieties have been released for general distribution after being tested in varying conditions, and it is confidently expected that some of these will become commercial varieties in the near future.

Soil research has shown a clear correlation between climate and soil properties and manurial trials are conducted on the different soil types, to discover their fertilizer requirements.

The physiological investigations have been chiefly concerned with root systems of different commercial varieties under varying conditions. These results have been correlated with suitability of various kinds of environment, phytalus resistance and different cultural practices.

*School Gardening and Nature Teaching in Primary Schools.*—(See also Chapter X, page 34.) The work is entrusted to the officers of the Agricultural Division of the Department of Agriculture. There are at present 32 registered school gardens. Gardening classes are held regularly, when the Instructors visit the schools, i.e., about every fortnight. Classes are also held on the average twice weekly by one of the schoolteachers. While particular attention is given to practical work in the garden, care is also taken to get the pupils to record their observations in garden note books. Furthermore, short lectures are delivered to the pupils on the principle and practice of horticulture.

In order further to secure the interest of both pupils and schoolteachers, a prize scheme exists, prizes being given annually for the best gardens.

*Co-operation.*—The idea of establishing Co-operative Banks for the benefit of the small planter was introduced in the Colony by the Royal Commission who visited the island in 1909.

The form of the bank inaugurated is that of the agricultural type based on the main principles laid down by Raiffeisen. These principles were adopted with some slight variations found necessary to suit the ideas and necessities of the small planters, and are briefly the following:—

Each society must contain at least ten members and must operate in a small area. Every member must contribute at least one share fixed at Rs.10, and must be personally known to his fellow members. The liability of the members is unlimited, the services of the members are rendered gratuitously, the profits are placed to a reserve fund and loans for short periods are granted only to members essentially for reproductive purposes. Shares contributed, deposits of members and non-members, Government advances and the reserve fund, if any, constitute the working capital of the society.

The facilities given by Government are briefly that a society is registered free of charge, the audit and inspection of its accounts are made by Government officers, it has a priority of claims as against crops, etc., over other creditors, the share or interest of a member is made not liable to attachment or sale under any decree, the instruments executed by or on behalf of the society are exempted from stamp duty and registration fees.

Co-operative Credit Societies were first registered in July, 1913. The following notes describe their position twenty-four

and a half years later and show the progress achieved solely through Government's activities:—

On the 31st December, 1937, there were 35 societies in operation in the island and its dependencies (Rodrigues) with 2,041 members and a working capital amounting to Rs.269,650 made up of:—

- (a) Share contribution Rs.61,133;
- (b) Dividends undrawn by members and left in the societies as non-dividend bearing shares for strengthening their working capital Rs. 1,368;
- (c) Deposits of members and non-members Rs.100 and Rs.2,400 respectively;
- (d) Government advances held by six societies Rs.17,000;
- (e) Reserve Fund Rs.187,649.

The total amount the societies disbursed as loans to their members was Rs.226,725. The rates of interest charged by the societies on loans to their members varied from 5 to 12 per cent. per annum.

Since the inception of the movement, Government advances totalling Rs.102,450 have been made to the societies of which Rs.85,450 have been refunded.

The movement is under the supervision and guidance of the Government and is run as a branch of the Department of Agriculture with a staff composed of:—(a) the Registrar who is also the Director of Agriculture; (b) the assistant Registrar, a whole-time officer who has undergone a training in co-operation in Ceylon; (c) a whole-time Inspector; and (d) a part-time Inspector with combined duties of Agricultural Instructor.

Apart from a small yearly contribution made by the societies towards their audit inspection, the cost of running the movement is borne by the Government.

### **Other Manufacturing Industries.**

Conditions have been nearly stationary regarding subsidiary industries. In 1937, engineering establishments numbered 48. There were four docks (landing, etc.), three distilleries, three hydro-electrical plants, six cigarette factories, one match factory and four salt making establishments. Altogether, employment was afforded to about 2,000 people in these various concerns.

In addition, there exist, on a somewhat limited scale, leather tanning, boot and shoe making, aerated water works, ice making, vinegar making, biscuit and jam making, etc., together with the usual innumerable small handicrafts, which in an overpopulated island like Mauritius help to render the community less dependent on imported articles.

### Fisheries.

In 1926 the question of fishery control in Mauritius was thoroughly investigated by Mr. J. Hornell, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., formerly Director of Fisheries in Madras, and his recommendations in the printed report on the subject have formed the basis of the work of the Local Fisheries Advisory Committee formed in 1927. Special consideration has been given to the questions of control of net fishing, improvement of local methods of fish-curing, protection of the local dried fish trade against the imported article, and ensuring a plentiful supply of cheap fish in the markets without prejudice to the working fishermen. Careful study of the whole question led the Committee to recommend a suspension of the use of large nets in 1934 and this was approved and has been in force since 1st October of that year. This measure, which was made permanent in the early part of the year under review, divided public opinion to such an extent that the Fisheries Advisory Committee have recommended a relaxation of prohibition, in consequence of which net fishing will very probably be reintroduced during 1938.

The lagoons, between the coral reef surrounding the Island and the beach, are normally full of excellent fish of many varieties which are taken in large quantities by means of basket traps, cast net and line and, in the open sea outside the reefs, large fish can be taken at practically all times of the year by trolling or with deep sea lines.

All professional fishing is done from small sailing craft known as "peniches" and "pirogues" which are well built and sea-worthy but the business side of the industry is quite undeveloped owing to local preference for old-fashioned methods which ought to be replaced. Amateur fishermen are well supplied with locally built sea-going motor boats which enable them to reach the remarkable fishing grounds round the rocky islets lying from two to fifteen miles off the northern coast of the Colony where good sport is certain at almost all seasons.

Fish-curing industries are established at Rodrigues and St. Brandon Islands and produce a considerable quantity of what is one of the staple foods of the poorer classes but the dried fish of South Africa and India still commands a large sale and is imported in increasing quantities at a very low price.

River fishing is confined to spinning for carp and chite—a fish very like a mullet—but fishing rights are preserved and suitable stretches of water are scarce.

### Forestry.

The forest area consists of 110 square miles of Crown forest (forest and scrub) and about 60 square miles of private forest land (forest and scrub). Total about 170 square miles.

Those portions of Crown forest not carrying merchantable produce have a vegetative cover, important for catchment and for protection purposes, especially where situated on the central and southern plateaux, where the high rainfall and general humidity of the air ensures that any blanks are rapidly colonized. The same may be said of portions of the private forest lands, but others are at too low levels for this cover to have such effect.

As a subsidiary form of production, forest lands are utilized for shooting and fishing—Crown forests leased for this purpose returning Rupees 16,000 in a normal year.

A second subsidiary form of production consists in the grazing that is to be had on the four thousand five hundred acres of Pas Geometriques or Crown land strip 250 feet wide round the greater part of the coastline and islands leased on tree-planting conditions. This strip of plantations gives the island one of the finest coastlines in the world, and the combination of economic production (timber and grazing) with aesthetic value is worthy of special note.

The forests of indigenous species which produced the primary timbers have been and still are being superseded by the invasion of exotic vegetation due to the extensive removal of the over-forest in the past, the destruction of the regeneration by the burning of charcoal in conjunction with this operation, the exceptionally slow regeneration and aftergrowth of the indigenous species and the very favourable conditions of climate and rainfall and the physical soil conditions awaiting the invading species. In place of the whole island area, only some few square miles of this virgin forest now exist.

Following the foregoing general destruction, trials of many and varied exotic tree species were undertaken, many were planted between 1880 and 1918 on a large scale on Crown land, notably eucalypt and to a lesser extent the Chinese pine, but generally speaking, these plantations were formed to reconstitute the vegetative cover and were not laid out on commercial lines. The present stocks are sometimes scattered, irregular and often severely shaken and damaged, whilst there are many fallen trees due to the selection of unsuitable species, to cyclone damage and to lack of past thinning and other treatment. It is from these plantations that, what major production as is possible, has at present to be effected. From 1928 onwards, however, regular and vigorous plantations, on easy extraction routes, are being provided on a scale designed to abolish imports of the cheap woods of commerce and to provide a surplus of cabinet timbers worthy of export. These plantations are the result of a careful study of the results of the past and a selection of species

has been made accordingly though the species composing the mixture are changed from time to time. Full financial records are available for these recent plantations.

(a) *Production:*—

*Unmanufactured items.*

From Crown forests (no figures available for private lands). .

<i>Product</i>	<i>Volume, 1937</i>		<i>Value, 1937</i>
	<i>Cu. ft.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	
Logs and round timber ...	... 96,000	33,000	
Sawn timber ...	... 8,000	17,000	
Fuel ...	... 690,000	46,000	
Minor forest produce ...	... —	2,000	
Sales in Rodrigues...	... —	1,600	
		99,600	

*Manufactured items.*

(i) Approximately 160,000 gross boxes of matches produced by the Mauritius Match Manufacturing Company. Total value, say, Rs.90,000 to 100,000.

(ii) The finished articles produced by cabinet-makers numbering about one hundred and sixty. The products of these craftsmen are of high quality.

*Minor Forest Produce.*

Grass for fodder, bamboos, palm salads, thatching material and fodder seeds.

The most notable features of production for 1937 were the further large advance in the production of matches by the Mauritius Match Manufacturing Company and the large and much increased demands for fuel from Crown land.

Much fuel is converted into charcoal. Few charcoal lorries, however, are at present working on the island.

(b) Logs and round timber supplied on forest roads or sometimes delivered to buyer.

Sawn timber: sawn by hand.

Fuel: sold standing or by the cord of forest roads.

The principle of limiting the outturn to ensure a sustained yield applies to Crown forests. At present the sale of pine has thus to be limited.

(c) All production is consumed locally.

**VII.—COMMERCE.**

Mauritius is an essentially agricultural Colony and yet, it barely produces one-tenth of the foodstuffs required for its inhabitants and imports practically all articles of food and drink, with the exception of sugar, and manufactured goods of all descriptions.

Of the principal articles of food and drink imported, rice, which is the staple food of the people as well as dholl, lentils and other grain, edible oil, spices and seeds, salted fish and ghee come from India, confectionery, preserved provisions, soya bean oil, whisky from the United Kingdom; wheat flour, fresh fruits and butter from Australia; salted fish, meat, fresh fruits from South Africa; wines from France and Spain; lard from Hong Kong; preserved provisions from China; margarine and cheese from Holland; tinned sardines from Japan, tea from Ceylon; and cattle, pistachio nuts and potatoes from Madagascar.

The main items of imports of manufactured goods are: heavy iron and steel goods for use on sugar estates in connexion with the manufacture of sugar; cotton and woollen goods, wearing apparel, patent fuel, fertilizers, hardware, paint, soap, motor vehicles from the United Kingdom; gunny bags for packing sugar, saltpetre, cotton piece goods come from India.

Other sources of supply are: France, apparel and haberdashery, perfumery and drugs; the Dutch East Indies supply petroleum products; the United States of America, machinery and petroleum products; Germany, toys and tramway materials; the Straits Settlements, timber and rattans; Belgium, chemical manures, glassware and tramway materials; Japan, cotton and silk manufactures, earthenware, glassware and wearing apparel.

Of the foodstuffs produced locally, may be mentioned fresh fruits and fresh vegetables.

Mauritius is almost entirely dependent on one industry—the sugar industry—and so long as efforts made to develop other industries do not meet with success its position will be more or less insecure especially on account of cyclones. In 1937 the sugar exports represented about 98 per cent. of the domestic exports. Other items of exportation are comparatively insignificant in value—they are: aloe fibre, copra, poonac, rum and coconut oil.

There has, as yet, been no market for the local tobacco industry, but as the result of the successful development of these industries during the past few years, imports of cigarettes and matches have considerably decreased.

The following table gives the total value of imports, domestic exports and re-exports for the year under review and each of the preceding four years.

			<i>Domestic</i>		
			<i>Imports.</i>		<i>Exports.</i>
			<i>Value</i>	<i>c.i.f.</i>	<i>Value</i>
			(Rs.).	(Rs.).	(Rs.).
1937	...	...	34,226,522	36,081,479*	832,542
1936	...	...	30,218,589	31,842,308	948,498
1935	...	...	29,891,160	28,008,615	640,640
1934	...	...	29,680,346	25,028,810	1,107,330
1933	...	...	29,035,237	31,428,394	748,349

\* Excludes the value of Sugar Quota Certificates which in the year 1937 may be estimated at Rs. 4,900,000.

The following table gives the percentage of total imports provided by the British Empire and foreign countries respectively during the year 1937 and the four preceding years.

	1937. Per cent.	1936. Per cent.	1935. Per cent.	1934. Per cent.	1933. Per cent.
Empire ...	77	75·5	78·6	74·4	70·6
Foreign countries	23	24·5	21·4	25·6	29·4

In the following table is given the percentage of total imports provided by the six principal countries from which our commodities are imported, for the year under review and the four previous years.

	1937. Per cent.	1936. Per cent.	1935. Per cent.	1934. Per cent.	1933. Per cent.
United Kingdom	30·4	31·7	30·3	29	32·5
Australia	6·0	4·3	5·0	6	4
India	33·8	33·0	36·7	34	29
France	3·3	3·6	3·7	4	5
Japan	3·7	3·9	3·3	4	6
U.S.A.	3·3	3·7	3·2	4	3·7

Table giving the percentage of domestic exports sent to the Empire and foreign countries.

	1937. Per cent.	1936. Per cent.	1935. Per cent.	1934. Per cent.	1933. Per cent.
Empire ...	99	98·9	99	99	99
Foreign countries	1	1·1	1	1	1

Table giving the percentage of domestic exports sent to the principal countries of destination.

	1937. Per cent.	1936. Per cent.	1935. Per cent.	1934. Per cent.	1933. Per cent.
United Kingdom	92	93·5	86·8	95	98
Canada ...	7	5·0	12·3	3·5	—
Hong Kong ...	—	—	—	—	0·4
Belgium ...	0·4	0·3	0·1	0·1	—
Reunion ...	0·2	0·3	0·3	0·3	—
France ...	—	—	—	—	0·4

The following table gives the values and quantities of the principal imports for the year under review and the previous year with an indication of the principal sources of supply. The total imports of each commodity are also given:—

<i>Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.</i>		1937.		1936.	
		<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value c.i.f. Rs.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value c.i.f. Rs.</i>
Cows and oxen—					
Madagascar	... No.	5,967	335,758	5,766	361,100
Butter—					
Australia ...	... Kilos	64,819	122,274	63,202	110,965
Denmark ...	... ,,	5,120	13,697	2,575	6,751
Total imports	... ,,	79,009	149,080	75,469	133,518
Ghee—					
India ...	... Kilos	48,912	72,407	62,644	86,064
Confectionery—					
United Kingdom ...	Kilos	80,075	113,661	59,868	79,038
Total imports	... ,,	95,032	128,141	68,615	86,277
Bran—					
Australia ...	... Kilos	755,505	68,359	754,148	63,092
India ...	... ,,	613,766	46,369	481,314	34,060
Total imports	... ,,	1,394,696	117,134	1,235,462	97,152
Tinned sardines—					
Japan ...	... Kilos	145,350	41,417	117,342	32,490
Portugal ...	... ,,	102,074	67,174	104,109	56,395
Total imports	... ,,	254,184	111,325	226,485	90,953
Fish, salted—					
U.S. Africa	... Kilos	313,557	133,612	380,163	146,507
India ...	... ,,	102,189	47,860	104,334	50,255
Total imports	... ,,	444,471	201,034	513,084	216,448
Rice—					
India ...	... Kilos	67,558,431	7,076,404	54,127,737	5,992,666
Total imports	... ,,	67,719,337	7,101,625	54,482,152	6,035,237
Wheat flour—					
Australia ...	... Kilos	9,789,405	1,548,299	7,944,063	996,375
Total imports	... ,,	9,909,109	1,566,879	8,103,027	1,017,554
Dholl—					
India ...	... Kilos	3,617,092	424,512	2,789,469	322,254
Lentils—					
India ...	... Kilos	1,865,112	233,382	2,026,178	209,515
Lard, hog's—					
Hong Kong	... Kilos	209,864	147,356	160,691	95,909
Total imports	... ,,	280,254	200,331	211,239	133,495
Oil, mustard—					
India ...	... Kilos	441,819	194,255	485,867	195,822
Oil, pistachionut—					
India ...	Kilos	699,408	293,372	128,587	50,107
Dutch East Indies	,,	343,787	160,660	570,066	235,236
Total imports	... ,,	1,098,364	475,939	707,390	289,793
Oil, soya—					
United Kingdom ...	Kilos	871,185	425,543	684,197	298,369
Total imports	... ,,	1,292,896	609,717	867,431	380,220
Spices and spice seeds—					
India ...	... Kilos	312,639	107,774	516,199	114,324
Total imports	... ,,	351,893	129,844	1,011,820	198,155

Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.	1937.			1936.		
	Quantity.	Value c.i.f. Rs.	Quantity.	Value c.i.f. Rs.	Quantity.	Value c.i.f. Rs.
Tea—						
Ceylon ... ... Kilos	155,463	276,885	116,505	200,649		
Total imports ... ,,	160,991	295,683	129,874	218,846		
Whisky—						
United Kingdom... Litres	25,623	110,822	21,552	79,100		
Potatoes—						
Madagascar ... Kilos	1,026,555	72,578	861,548	80,617		
Total imports ... ,,	1,253,610	97,193	1,157,470	111,086		
Coal—						
U.S. Africa ... Kilos	40,521,920	566,031	37,563,624	404,120		
Total imports ... ,,	41,739,637	596,797	40,261,876	463,615		
Linseed oil—						
United Kingdom... Kilos	187,940	95,019	134,402	64,845		
Total imports ... ,,	201,624	101,138	151,700	71,799		
Wood and timber—						
Australia ... ... Cu. m.	1,617	118,646	Not stated	49,889		
Straits Settlements ... ,,	5,745	182,175	„	227,559		
Siam ... ... „	5,654	243,690	„	145,653		
Total imports ... ,,	13,230	559,031	„	464,801		
Boots and shoes—						
United Kingdom... Pairs	12,596	64,385	16,111	61,659		
Hong Kong ... „	71,635	99,073	57,004	75,384		
Total imports ... ,,	147,376	214,289	151,011	216,566		
Cotton piece-goods—						
United Kingdom... Metres	2,604,963	831,899	4,060,605	1,109,860		
India ... ... „	3,388,116	576,520	3,516,849	512,451		
Japan ... ... „	835,643	203,865	1,249,552	170,594		
Total imports ... ,,	6,891,972	1,644,933	8,845,739	1,802,798		
Jute, gunny bags—						
India ... ... No.	4,453,900	1,135,359	4,004,610	1,129,275		
Silk manufactures—						
United Kingdom... —	—	208,263	—	114,721		
Japan ... ... „	—	414,239	—	305,667		
Total imports ... ,	—	733,490	—	487,880		
Woollen manufactures—						
United Kingdom... —	—	216,512	—	229,485		
Japan ... ... „	—	74,225	—	115,403		
Total imports ... ,	—	302,112	—	352,395		
Machinery, sugar—						
United Kingdom... Kilos	1,067,834	788,801	982,040	528,334		
Total imports ... ,,	1,172,352	896,725	1,062,905	589,449		
Iron sheets and plates—						
United Kingdom... Kilos	658,291	171,856	1,587,394	273,284		
Belgium ... ... „	301,307	78,323	1,009,617	176,102		
Total imports ... ,,	1,194,776	303,153	2,713,307	469,778		
Tramway materials of all kinds—						
Germany ... ... —	—	150,974	—	153,503		
Total imports ... ,	—	266,375	—	187,615		
Motor cars—						
United Kingdom... No.	266	604,473	159	337,016		
Total imports ... ,,	321	740,511	205	446,828		
Cement—						
United Kingdom... Kilos	5,358,317	220,016	5,588,699	195,551		
Total imports ... ,,	7,074,780	239,897	6,570,386	225,546		

<i>Articles and Principal Countries of Origin.</i>		1937.		1936.	
		<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value c.i.f. Rs.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value c.i.f. Rs.</i>
Manures, chemical—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	12,567,516	1,199,913	13,691,904	1,239,827
India ...	„	3,950,805	560,202	3,760,273	582,222
Chili ...	„	1,609,516	165,331	442,988	43,735
Total imports ...	„	19,824,236	2,117,295	19,570,305	2,038,642
Films, cinematograph—					
India ...	Metres	494,785	134,777	308,724	91,236
France ...	„	470,910	94,066	442,316	113,378
Total imports ...	„	1,053,461	246,633	955,408	253,161
Petroleum motor spirits—					
Dutch East Indies	Litres	2,624,318	359,415	4,145,936	541,454
U.S.A. ...	„	2,635,027	379,767	2,470,372	331,158
Total imports ...	„	6,059,265	859,945	6,616,308	872,612
Petroleum lamp oil—					
Dutch East Indies	Litres	821,861	107,404	932,227	107,960
U.S.A. ...	„	1,955,556	247,280	1,850,088	215,176
Total imports ...	„	2,777,417	354,684	2,782,320	323,137
Paints and colours—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	467,317	210,000	448,631	191,997
Total imports ...	„	542,283	230,193	522,712	212,095
Paper manufactures—					
United Kingdom...		—	164,377	—	199,196
Belgium ...		—	47,090	—	27,616
Czechoslovakia ...		—	28,863	—	15,984
Total imports ...		—	358,662	—	363,476
Soap, common—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	1,554,934	579,379	1,548,199	526,172
Total imports ...	„	1,654,484	602,102	1,558,929	530,669
Shingles—					
India ...	No.	1,275,250	61,190	1,138,075	59,371
Total imports ...	„	1,295,250	61,379	1,138,075	59,371

### QUANTITY AND VALUE OF PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS AND RE-EXPORTS DURING 1937 AND 1936.

#### DOMESTIC EXPORTS.

<i>Articles and Countries of Destination.</i>		1937.		1936.	
		<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value f.o.b. Rs.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value f.o.b. Rs.</i>
Sugar—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	289,682,430	32,599,979	262,351,435	29,462,107
Canada ...	„	22,415,417	2,570,551	16,529,808	1,673,610
Hong Kong ...	„	914,494	80,077	304,838	12,624
Straits Settlements „		—	—	8,010	1,029
Total ...	„	313,012,341	35,250,607	279,194,091	31,149,370
Copra—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	1,506,867	350,012	1,331,539	229,884
Aloe fibre—					
United Kingdom...	Kilos	416,995	74,040	297,788	41,244
Belgium ...	„	789,438	146,662	493,673	94,871
France ...	„	79,068	13,868	56,091	11,139
Holland ...	„	203,208	29,298	159,166	39,761
U.S.A. ...	„	128,022	18,658	284,187	49,807
Total ...	„	1,616,731	282,526	1,290,905	236,822

## RE-EXPORTS.

<i>Articles and Countries of Destination.</i>	1937.			1936.		
	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value f.o.b. Rs.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value f.o.b. Rs.</i>	<i>Value f.o.b. Rs.</i>	
Lentils—						
Reunion ... Kilos	433,966	63,149	684,660	94,449		
Total ... „	541,791	80,233	762,757	104,532		
Jute, gunny bags—						
Madagascar ... No.	710,900	169,759	622,950	130,231		
Reunion ... „	—	—	518,302	149,298		
Total ... „	722,900	173,119	1,286,752	308,609		
Iron, old and scrap—						
Japan ... ... Tons	3,303	66,053	Not stated	77,220		
Total ... „	3,934	147,548	—	105,792		

In the Table of Imports, Domestic Exports and Re-Exports above, the values for Bullion and Specie are not included. The imports in 1937 were Rs.121,333 and Re-Exports Rs.174,789 against Rs.50,000 and Rs.159,185 respectively in 1936; Rs.36,866 and Rs.1,275,622 in 1935; Rs.2,182,000 and Rs.2,419,834 in 1934.

In 1933 there were no imports, and re-exports amounted to Rs.213,030.

## TOURIST TRAFFIC.

During the year 1937, five tourist ships called at Port Louis with 532 visitors. The number of tourists who arrived in the Colony by other ships amounted to 182. Good roads and taxi-cars at cheap rates render places of interest throughout the Colony easily accessible to visitors.

## VIII.—LABOUR.

About 11,000 labourers mainly of the Indian population work on the sugar estates under verbal monthly contract and some 70,000 by the day or by the task. Casual labour is hired by Indian sirdars who go round the neighbouring villages and persuade their fellow-countrymen to work at a certain rate on estates where the sirdars have been entrusted with field work.

To all appearances, especially in crop time, demand is in excess of supply chiefly for the reason that a day labourer will not work more than six hours a day at most.

Serious unrest occurred during the year among labourers employed on sugar estates. The first indications of this unrest appeared at the end of July when the cane cutting season began. The principal grievance of the strikers at that time was that a

15 per cent. cut had been made in the price paid for "Uba" cane—an inferior type of cane which has a smaller sugar content than other varieties. The small planters, many of whom work as labourers, alleged that this cut in price had been made without due notice and that it would result in serious loss to themselves. Strikes continued to occur until September, the complaints of the labourers being:—

- (1) Low wages.
- (2) Inferior quality of rations.
- (3) Low rates of overtime pay.
- (4) Poor medical treatment.

During the course of the strikes several serious accidents occurred—in one case the staff of a sugar mill, fearing that they would be rushed by a hostile mob, opened fire, killing four persons and wounding six others. In another case a mob attacked a small party of police with stones and the police were obliged to fire, killing one person and slightly wounding another.

A considerable amount of intimidation occurred during the strike—arrests were made in some cases.

The Protector of Immigrants and his staff took all steps possible to enquire into and settle the strikes, and millers and employers agreed to a reduction in the cut in the price paid for "Uba" cane and to an increase in wages for labourers.

The series of strikes ended on the 8th of September.

On the 17th of August a Commission was appointed to hold a full enquiry into the causes of the unrest and to make such recommendations as it thought fit. This Commission had not yet reported when the year came to an end.

The problem of unemployment, which is practically non-existent in the labouring classes, was severely felt amongst skilled artisans and clerks. Certain works of public utility were again undertaken by Government during the year, providing employment for as many persons as possible who were without work.

## **IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.**

Labourers under monthly verbal contracts receive in cash Rs.10 per month, together with rations, lodgings, medical assistance, etc. Furthermore, they have facilities for rearing chickens, goats, milch cattle and form the groundwork of the supply, through hawkers, of eggs, chickens and milk throughout the Island.

Male day labourers received R.0.60 to Rs.1.25 per daily task; females R.0.35 to R.0.70: in crop time agricultural wages being about double their wages in inter-crop.

Remuneration for piece work was, on the average, as follows:—

	<i>Per acre.</i> <i>Rs.</i>
Clearing land ... ... ... ... ...	20-40
Digging cane holes ... ... ... ... ...	18-20
Manuring ... ... ... ... ...	15
Weeding ... ... ... ... ...	8-10
Cutting canes (20 tons/acre) ... ... ...	12-16

The wages of artisans were R.1 to Rs.2 per day while those paid by the month received Rs.30 to Rs.90 according to the nature of work.

The supply of domestic servants, especially in the populous central districts, is abundant, if not altogether efficient. Butlers, cooks, gardeners, and other servants receive Rs.10 to Rs.35 per month, often with quarters. Chauffeurs, on the average get Rs.35 per month.

As regards salaries, conditions have not changed in 1937. The following gives a broad outline of the principal rates:—

	<i>Rs. per annum.</i>
Managers of sugar estates and senior Government officials ... ... ...	8,000-13,000
Government, bank and commercial clerks (higher grade) ... ... ...	4,000- 7,000
Clerks and employees on sugar estates...	1,500- 3,000
Junior clerks and employees ... ...	720- 1,500

The cost of living in 1937 evinced an appreciable decrease, especially as regards foodstuffs. Rice, the staple food of the population, was indexed, throughout the year at 66 (100 in 1914). Other grains (lentil, dholl) fell from 80 to 77. Flour, which was 129 during the first quarter, fell to 113 during the last. Oils and fats fell from 69 to 66 while tea and coffee remained steady at 77 and 58 respectively. Articles of clothing remained steady about 112.

The quarterly weighted index for the total cost of living (28 items) in 1937 was as follows (100 being the Index for 1914):—

First quarter ... ... ...	98.0
Second „ „ „ „	98.2
Third „ „ „ „	97.0
Fourth „ „ „ „	97.9

The mean for the year was 97.8 as compared with 111.5 in 1936.

As regards the labouring classes, the following total indicates the purchasing power of wages, in terms of rice, since 1927:—

Year.	Average daily wages of male labourer.	Average price of fair quality rice per lb.	Purchasing power of wages expressed in lb. of rice.
	Rs.	Rs.	lb.
1927 ...	1·25	0·13	9½
1928 ...	1·25	0·10	12½
1929 ...	1·00	0·10	10
1930 ...	0·80	0·09	9
1931 ...	0·75	0·08	9
1932 ...	0·45	0·05½	8
1933 ...	0·45	0·06	7½
1934 ...	0·45	0·06	7½
1935 ...	0·55	0·07	8
1936 ...	0·55	0·06	9
1937 ...	0·65	0·06	11

The official index numbers do not take into consideration the improved standard of living since 1914, while such items as housing, lighting, tuition of children, taxes and rates, etc., have either not been reduced or else, actually increased. Consequently the cost of living for Europeans and people living on the European standard is, generally, higher than the official index would lead one to suppose.

## X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

An Ordinance, enacted by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, was introduced on the 18th of September, 1934, to amend and consolidate the law on education. It provides for the establishment of a Royal College Department and a Schools Department. The Regulations for the management of Government and Aided Primary Schools as well as Aided Secondary Schools are embodied in the Education Code.

*Primary.*—Primary Education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1937:—

Schools.	No. of Institutions.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Pupils on roll.	No. of Pupils in average attendance.
Government	50	401	14,393	10,436
Aided	77	691	24,515	17,306
<i>Totals</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>1,092</i>	<i>38,908</i>	<i>27,742</i>

State-aided schools are under the control of a Manager, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least five years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission to a primary school; when they are under five they undergo a preliminary training before being promoted to the lowest form.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene and elementary principles of agriculture.

There are six primary school standards or classes, viz.:—

- Standard I with pupils from 5 to 6 years of age.
- Standard II with pupils from 6 to 7 years of age.
- Standard III with pupils from 7 to 8 years of age.
- Standard IV with pupils from 8 to 10 years of age.
- Standard V with pupils from 9 to 11 years of age.
- Standard VI with pupils from 10 to 12 years of age.

There are no fixed age limits for the different standards but no pupil may be entered on the attendance register who is under five years of age, and no pupil may be retained on the register after the annual examination which follows his or her fourteenth birthday, exception being made for pupils following the scholarship classes.

Examinations which were formerly held for all the classes are now limited to Standards V and VI. Experience has shown that the quality of the work put in, now that examinations have been restricted to the higher classes, is of a higher standard than it used to be. A scheme of work was introduced recently for the benefit of the lower classes. It contains suggestions to teachers as to the methods to be employed with a view to acquiring a more gradual teaching of the elementary subjects. The advantage gained by the primary schools through this scheme is being gradually felt and it is hoped that in the near future the full effect of the system will be reaped.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicraft. Needlework apprenticeships which were formerly restricted to Government or aided primary school pupils, are now open to outsiders. The object in view was to encourage competition on this line but, unfortunately, the result is far from being satisfactory. There is, however, a noticeable increase in the number of candidates for these examinations. Mauritian youngsters profess an undoubted aversion for manual work of any kind, but being given the difficulty of finding employment of the clerical type, there is a passive acceptance of the condition imposed upon them and a momentary return to handicraft. A new scheme is on foot and the object in view is to render handicraft more attractive. Twenty-six scholarships and

exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools.

It is interesting to note that a high percentage of candidates winning the English scholarships are junior scholars from the primary schools.

There are 32 gardens attached to the primary schools and they are cultivated by the pupils of Standards III to VI. These gardens are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation. (See Chapter VI, page 19.)

*Secondary.*—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz.:—(1) secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by Government.

(1) *Secondary Aided Schools.*—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary aided schools with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1937:—

	No. of Schools.	No. of Institutions.	No. of Teachers.	No. of Pupils on roll.	No. of Pupils in average attendance.
Aided ... ...	9	139	1,632	1,471	

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as is given in primary schools, but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

These schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools, who examines the lower forms. No advantage is gained from these examinations but it helps classification in view of prizes awarded for general proficiency. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools extend as a general rule from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College.*—The Royal College is a Government school for the secondary and higher education of boys up to a standard equivalent to that of the Higher Certificate examinations conducted by Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It comprises two schools under the management of the Rector, the Royal College proper in Curepipe and the Royal College School in Port Louis, where pupils who live in or near the capital are educated on the same lines as in Curepipe up to School Certificate standard. At the Royal College the teaching staff consists of the Rector, twelve Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, eleven Assistant Masters appointed locally; and a Physical Training and Gymnastic Instructor (who also attends once weekly at the school to take classes); and at the Royal College School, of the Headmaster, two Masters and nine Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped libraries and chemical, physical, and biological laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies. The subjects taught are English, French, mathematics, Latin, Greek, chemistry, physics, biology, geography and history; and classes are held during school hours in physical training and gymnastics. The pupils are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from 10 to 20 years. The fees are from Rs.96 to Rs.192 per annum, and pupils may travel at quarter rate on the Government railways. Admission to the Royal College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning one of the 20 annual primary schools scholarships and exhibitions or one of the two secondary schools scholarships awarded annually, or one of the eight class scholarships and exhibitions, which are competed for annually, and are open to all boys in the Colony. Six further class scholarships and exhibitions are competed for annually by Royal College pupils. These 36 scholarships and exhibitions are tenable at the Royal College, and entitle the holders to free tuition, free railway travelling to and from College, and also to the purchase at half price of books and school requisites, for a period of three years except the primary schools awards, which carry these privileges for the whole period of the pupil's college education.

Two scholarships, one on the Classical and one on the Modern Side, of the present value of £1,100 each (with first-class passage to and from England), tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom are also awarded annually. Besides the winners of these two scholarships, a few boys whose parents can afford it go to England or France to study for a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the Entrance class, and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the Upper Middle class. At the school, pupils may undergo commercial training in place of classics or science.

Classes are held between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on five days weekly. In addition to the ordinary classes there are Saturday extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public examinations are helped in their studies. The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1937, was 334, and of the school, 176. The average attendance at the college was 313 and at the school 170. (The number of college pupils on the roll in May, 1937, after the publication of the School Certificate results, was 317.) Eighty-six pupils sat in December, 1936, for the Cambridge School Certificate, of whom 47 obtained certificates. In May, 1937, the number of pupils who had passed this examination and proceeded to the highest class of the college was 22.

Besides the regular physical training classes encouragement is given to rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and gymnastics and athletics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published once yearly.

### **Welfare Institutions.**

There are six Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women, and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one "home" for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Under Ordinance No. 44 of 1932, subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 21 of 1934, a home, styled the Austin Wilson Home, has been instituted and incorporated to provide accommodation and subsistence for aged gentlefolk. The funds for the establishment of this home have been generously contributed by Mr. A. J. Wilson in memory of his son, the late Austin Wilson.

A Mohammedan orphanage was established in Port Louis in 1922 for the maintenance and education of orphans and children of paupers of the Mohammedan creed. Funds for running the institution were up to February, 1937, obtained from voluntary subscriptions among the Mohammedans.

Consequent on an application from the Directors of the Orphanage for the grant of capitation fees out of public funds, the Orphanage is receiving from the Government, since the 1st March, 1937, a maintenance fee for each child maintained therein.

Outdoor assistance to paupers was granted in cash by the Poor Law Department during the year.

Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The Société Francaise d'Assistance chiefly assists French nationals.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de Lait, two philanthropic institutions in receipt of Government grants, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of compensation by employers to workmen who are injured in the course of their work.

### **Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.**

Association football is the most popular form of sport. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and rugby football are played mostly by the wealthier classes.

The Mauritius Turf Club, founded by Colonel Edward A. Draper in 1812, and the Mauritius Jockey Club, which first ran horses in 1906, hold race meetings from May to October, at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis and at Floreal in the district of Plaines Wilhems. The large gathering of Indians in bright attire at the former place on the last Saturday of August, called "The Race Saturday," is a striking sight worth seeing.

Regattas are held by the Yacht Clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay generally on Empire Day, in August, and in December.

Fly and devon fishing, in rivers, for a sort of perch *Kuhlia* (*Dules*), *rupestris* (*Lacp*) called "Carpe," locally; and trailing for sail and sword fishes and other big game, out at sea, with heavier rods, afford excellent sport especially from October to January.

The "Chasse," or the shooting of deer, is a favourite sport in Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September, and strangers of mark visiting the Island at this period are always treated to chasses, some of which, like those given to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh by Messrs. Currie and Pitot in 1871, to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cornwall and York (later King George the Fifth) by Mr. Leopold Antelme in 1901 and to His Royal Highness the Duke

of York (now King George the Sixth) by Mr. Georges Antelme in 1927, are the occasion of splendid fetes. The "Chasse" affords to many poor people the only opportunity of eating meat during the year.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies, the latter known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy Scouts movement is becoming very popular and there are several companies of Scouts and Cubs. A Sea Scout Company has recently been organized and is promising.

There is not much chance of encouragement for any of the Arts. Music is fostered principally by the parish churches and amateur singers, who sometimes give concerts; there are but few professors now that the theatrical companies from France, which came over every year, and whose members generally gave lessons, sometimes remaining till the next season, have been driven away by the financial crisis and by the competition of the cinema, of which there are halls in every important village where excellent films are exhibited in record time after their appearance in Europe and in India. Censorship is exercised.

The Christian Brothers also provide musical training, and apart from the police band which consists of a bandmaster with 30 bandsmen, a band styled the "Alliance Musicale" and comprising about 25 units was established in 1933. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are prosperous. The African Creoles are very fond of music and can pick up a tune in an amazingly short time.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent now that the post of drawing master has been abolished at the Royal College.

The Mauritius Institute was founded in 1900 (Ordinance No. 37 of 1900) to promote the intellectual advancement of the Colony and installed in a specially erected building whose first stone was laid by Sir George Bowen on 23rd November, 1880. The Natural History Collections bequeathed to the Colony by Mr. Julien Desjardins were transferred to it in 1885.

The Institute now consists of:—

(a) The Museum Desjardins, containing the natural history collections bequeathed to the Colony by Mr. N. Desjardins in 1842, to which important additions have since been made.

(b) An Art Gallery of some 60 paintings of which 47 were offered by Mr. Edgar de Rochecouste in 1921-2.

(c) A Public Library of about 20,000 volumes, which is increasing at an annual rate of 300 units and attended by some 1,200 readers.

(d) The following incorporated scientific bodies: The Société Médicale de l'Ile Maurice including among its members most of the medical practitioners of the Colony; the Societe des Chimistes, a technical body of the local sugar industry, reckoning over 120 members and studying questions of technique concerning the growing of sugar cane and the manufacture of cane sugar; the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences. This Society which was founded in 1829 under the title of Societe d'Histoire Naturelle was honoured with a Royal Charter in 1846. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history, science and art. Lectures are delivered by its members, now numbering 60, and also by visitors of mark under its auspices. Its valuable library has been transferred to the Institute.

Apart from the public Art Gallery at the Institute, many pictures from celebrated painters are privately owned, together with artistic collections of old china, glassware, lace, bronze and marble figures from the best artists including the Mauritian sculptor Prosper d'Epinay.

There is also a museum of naval relics, located in a building on the premises of Government House. Most of the exhibits were reclaimed by the Honourable H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E., from the wreck of battleships sunk in Mahebourg harbour in 1810.

Artistic photography and fine millinery and embroidery are also produced.

In addition to the Institute Library there are: at Port Louis, the Municipal, the Police and the Union Catholique libraries; and at Curepipe, the Carnegie Library.

## XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

### Roads and Road Transport.

The Colony is well served with 500 miles of main roads maintained by Government and 190 miles of branch roads maintained by the District Boards. All roads are metalled and 170 miles of the main roads have been covered with bitumen.

The excellent roads of Mauritius are a source of constant surprise and admiration to all visitors to the Colony who are in a position to draw comparisons between Mauritius and other outlying posts of the Empire. All the principal roads are

tarred and a systematic policy of widening, grading and reducing curves has been pursued for some years with the result that the numerous places of beauty and interest in the Colony can be reached quickly and in comfort by tourists and visitors.

At the end of the year there were 2,866 motor vehicles in use classified as follows:—

Private cars	...	...	...	1,719
Taxi cars	...	...	...	402
Lorries	...	...	...	389
Motor cycles	...	...	...	224
Omnibuses	...	...	...	132

Importations of motor vehicles during the year totalled 350, of which 265 were British made.

Taxi-cars for hire in Port Louis and the principal towns are of modern type and are kept in excellent condition as regards safety and cleanliness and the charges for hire are reasonable, viz., R.O.20 per mile for short distance and special rates for long journeys or by the day. There is an excellent bus service on the 15 miles of main road from Port Louis to Curepipe and many subsidiary lines of less importance which radiate from the main system to every town and village in the Colony. The fares vary from 2 to 5 cents per mile and buses on the principal routes are well patronized and maintained in excellent condition for the safety and comfort of passengers. The retail price of petrol is normally Rs. 12.00 per eight gallon case, which is equivalent to about 2s. 2d. per gallon.

The annual tax payable in respect of motor vehicles is Rs.4 per horse-power in respect of motor cycles and Rs.5 per horse-power in respect of other classes of vehicles. Lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton gross weight and motor buses a licence duty varying from Rs.200 to Rs.500 per annum in accordance with their seating capacity. Motor lorries plying for hire pay a further licence of Rs.200 per annum. Motor cars pay a licence duty of Rs.30 per annum and the cost of a driving licence is Rs.5 a year.

Cars of visitors are subject to a tax at the rate of Rs.10 a month.

### Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways comprise  $110\frac{1}{2}$  miles of main line with  $45\frac{3}{4}$  miles of sidings and station lay-outs of British standard 4 feet  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inch gauge, and  $13\frac{2}{3}$  miles of 75 cm. gauge track known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway. The exceptionally heavy gradients, much of it being 1 in 26, makes

the operation of the railways exceptional, restricting speed of the passenger service and limiting the weight of goods trains.

From the terminal at Port Louis, the most important section, the Midland Line, rises to 1,800 feet on its way to Mahebourg, the old port on the south-east coast of the island,  $35\frac{1}{4}$  miles distant. A branch, 11 miles long, from this line, at Rose Belle, serves the fishing hamlet of Souillac. The North line,  $33\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, is fairly level and runs from Port Louis passing through the coastal districts to the little village of Grand River South-East, on the east coast. The Moka Branch from Rose Hill, on the Midland line, 950 feet above sea-level, to Montagne Blanche, is  $14\frac{3}{4}$  miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 feet. Tamarin and the Black River district are served by a branch off the Midland line at Richelieu,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, for goods traffic only. The Montagne Longue branch from Terre Rouge on the North line, is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, and in common with the Black River line, has no heavy gradients.

Particulars of revenue and expenditure for six years are given below:—

## COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

## REVENUE.

	<i>1931-32.</i>	<i>1932-33.</i>	<i>1933-34.</i>	<i>1934-35.</i>	<i>1935-36.</i>	<i>1936-37.</i>	<i>Increase or Decrease of 1936-37 over 1935-36.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	
Passengers	...	...	434,325	419,181	524,818	466,307	- 32,861
Parcels	...	...	63,466	62,163	65,776	63,515	- 3,561
General goods	...	...	817,077	1,174,046	1,255,729	1,288,120	+ 86,902
Road traffic (railway lorries)	...	—	—	—	—	400	+ 7,148
Miscellaneous	...	...	70,875	57,412	53,809	52,102	- 2,330
Net revenue	...	...	187,938	63,554	36,738	43,809	+ 15,017
Totals	...	...	1,573,681	1,776,356	1,936,870	1,596,508	- 40,281
Goods tonnage	...	...	254,139	362,642	385,541	279,646	- 454,622

## EXPENDITURE.

	<i>1931-32.</i>	<i>1932-33.</i>	<i>1933-34.</i>	<i>1934-35.</i>	<i>1935-36.</i>	<i>1936-37.</i>	<i>Increase or Decrease of 1936-37 over 1935-36.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	
Working expenditure including renewals.	1,945,113	1,516,631	1,606,730	1,808,354	1,877,048	1,896,216	+ 19,168
Net revenue expenditure	...	642,785	260,955	190,308	233,015	218,917	- 11,502
Totals	...	2,587,898	1,777,586	1,797,038	2,041,369	2,103,631	+ 7,666
Capital expenditure	...	20,226	304	—	26	25,711	+ 14,107
	2,608,124	1,777,890	1,797,038	2,041,395	2,107,569	2,129,342	+ 21,773

All previous records were broken in 1936 by the sugar crop reaching a total of 300,340 tons.

Of the total quantity of sugar produced in the Colony, 17,895 tons or 5·95 per cent. were carried otherwise than by the Railway Department, i.e., by road or by sea.

The increased size and speed of buses as well as the use of communal taxis has again reduced the passenger revenue of the Railway.

In March, 1937, the passenger services were reduced by the suppression of the little 3-mile Bel Air—Riviere Seche branch service, of two Midland line trains between Port Louis and Forest Side, of two Moka line trains between Rose Hill and Montagne Blanche and of four others between Montagne Blanche and Verdun. This step was rendered necessary by the need for economy and the paucity of passengers using these trains.

The Transport of Sugar and Fertilizers (Restriction) Ordinance became law on the 24th April, 1937. By this enactment about 98 per cent. of all the sugar produced in the Colony will be carried by rail and additional revenue from the transport of fertilizers should be realized. A slightly more equitable distribution of sugar rates has at the same time been made together with a remission of the 1 per cent. for cane fire and damp sugar risks and the one cent. per ton for sugar otherwise damaged in transit.

### **Tramways.**

Greater extension of the network of tramway lines was in evidence. In 1937, over 1,800 kilometres of rail were in service as against 1,770 the year previous. There were 221 locomotives and about 7,700 trucks, as against 220 locomotives and 7,400 trucks in 1936. Farm tractors, on estates, numbered 69 and motor lorries 108.

### **Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless.**

The usual facilities which the Post Office provides in regard to correspondence, parcels, and remittances are being extended to remote areas gradually as their postal needs can be firmly estimated. Of the 57 offices and postal agencies, 53 are telegraph offices. Mails from one office to another are carried by the Government Railways. With the exception of a few outposts in outlying localities the offices are on the railway lines. The offices and localities lying out far from the railway stations are served by bicycle postmen or by motor mail contractors.

A regular monthly service by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers is maintained with Rodrigues, the largest dependency of Mauritius. A connexion is made every four months with the other dependencies. Communications by occasional sailings are also available.

Mails to and from Europe are carried regularly twice every month by the French Messageries Maritimes steamers via Suez, and twice in transit through South Africa by the K.P.M. steamers.

Mails between Mauritius and India, Ceylon, the Far East and Australia are despatched by the Messageries Maritimes steamers via Mombasa or Aden and by the Dutch K.P.M. steamship lines via Singapore and Batavia, twice monthly.

Communications with Europe, Asia, and other places are occasionally provided by other ships.

The time taken for the transmission of first class mail to and from England by the Messageries Maritimes steamers via Dar-es-Salaam is 18 days, and by the Dutch K.P.M. steamers via South Africa 15 days. It takes about 32 days by the former route and between 26 and 50 days by the latter for second class mail. Letters by air are also despatched to Europe via Tananarive and Batavia. The average time of transmission is 18 and 25 days respectively.

The outstanding feature of the postal service for the year 1937 has been the introduction of the Empire Air Mail Scheme which has made it possible to send letters by air to Great Britain and certain British territories in Africa at the rate of 12 cents for 10 grammes.

Parcel mails from Great Britain are only received by the Cape route when direct despatch is not available. The other route is via Marseilles. Parcels from Continental Europe are as a rule received by the latter route.

Remittances are made by both money orders and postal orders. There are direct exchanges with the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Ceylon, Aden, Seychelles, Hong Kong and Australia; remittances to almost any place may be made through these offices. Remittances by telegraph may be made to the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Seychelles and Rodrigues.

There is also a remittance service with England and France in respect of Trade Charge Orders.

The Telephone service, owned and managed by the Oriental Telephone Company, has its headquarters in Port Louis with which the rural districts are connected. Government Offices are linked together by the Government telephone system which is connected to the Oriental Telephone Company's lines.

Overseas telecommunications are maintained by the Eastern and South African Company, whose local station is in Port Louis. Cablegrams to and from rural telegraph offices are transmitted on the Government telegraph lines. Rodrigues is connected to Mauritius by that Company's cable system.

Communication with the outside world is also provided by the Post Office wireless coast station. The station can transmit within a limited range to ships equipped with wireless. There is also a service with Reunion Island. The staff is in attendance day and night. Radiotelegrams can be handed in at any telegraph office for transmission. During the cyclonic season, from 11th November to 15th May, the station transmits to all ships and stations within the range at 08.45 G.M.T. daily a detailed weather report including observations made at Reunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles and Durban. A fairly large number of weather reports are intercepted from ships at sea. When a cyclone is in the vicinity, the Government tug *Maurice* stationed in the harbour at Port Louis is manned and inland weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in the port for the guidance of their masters. The wireless apparatus in the *Maurice* also acts as a stand-by in the event of accident to the aerial system at the main wireless station at Rose Belle. The Rose Belle station is provided with a modern valve set in conformity with the Telecommunications Convention. The range of the station is 1,000 miles.

### **Harbour.**

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, possesses the only navigable harbour for ocean-going ships, which is picturesquely situated on the north-west coast. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs surrounding the island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Latanier, La Paix, Le Pouce, and Creole, gives access to the harbour, which has been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for ten ships lying at berths in the channel and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, which is abandoned. The mountains of the range behind Port Louis, including the Pouce, 2,661 feet, and Pieterboth, 2,690 feet, are guiding beacons to ships by day. The lighthouses of Flat Island, the Colony's quarantine station six miles north of Mauritius, and Caves Point, five miles south of Port Louis on the cliff's edge, and the gas buoy to the north of the outer harbour entrance, direct ships approaching Port Louis by night. A tide gauge has been in operation for five years. The maximum rise of tide at ordinary springs is three feet, which diminishes to two or three inches at ordinary neaps. Dredging of the berths and channel by the Government plant is continuously in progress.

The Government of Mauritius is the Harbour Authority. The Government has from time to time sold or let to two lighterage companies various areas of land bordering the harbour. These two companies, the New Mauritius Dock Company and the

Albion Dock Company, each own about 45 lighters with the necessary tugs, and undertake all the storage and lighterage of sugar. The British India Steam Navigation Company also own 30 lighters and two tugs. This Company mainly handles grain from the East, the rest of the general cargo being shared fairly evenly between the British India Company and the other two lighterage companies. Seven years ago the Government built a deep-water quay, 500 feet long, with 32 feet of water alongside, which is able to deal with 100,000 tons of cargo per annum. Actually only 40,000 to 50,000 tons, chiefly petroleum products, Government coal, etc., are discharged annually at the quay.

A Government granary, capable of storing 300,000 bags of rice, was put into commission seven years ago as a protection against the spread of plague in the Colony. Under exceptional circumstances 414,000 bags were stored in the granary in 1937.

### **Shipping.**

There are now three regular lines of passenger steamers connecting Mauritius with the United Kingdom.

The service between Marseilles and Mauritius, performed by the Messageries Maritimes Company has been reduced to a three-weekly service for four months of the year and a fortnightly service for the remainder of the year; the average voyage takes from four to five weeks and includes a stay of about a week at Reunion either on the outward or homeward voyage.

Vessels of the K.P.M. (Dutch Line) leave Mauritius monthly for Durban and Cape ports connecting with the Royal Mail steamers from the United Kingdom; and once a month for Mombasa via Durban.

Vessels also leave Durban once a month direct for Mauritius.

The K.P.M. Company have put three new motor vessels of about 16,000 tons gross and a speed of about  $17\frac{1}{2}$  knots on the Java-Mauritius-Africa Line. The voyage to England via K.P.M. and Union Castle Lines averages 32 days. The same voyage by the Messageries Maritimes Line via Marseilles would take from 31 to 36 days.

Vessels of the Bullard King Company call occasionally, from the United Kingdom via Durban and Cape ports, with tourists.

Cheap passages to the United Kingdom may, as usual, be secured during the sugar shipping season—October to March—the voyage averaging 40 days.

The fares from Mauritius to England vary as follows:—

- (i) per Messageries Maritimes steamers, from £76 to £32;
- (ii) per Union Castle Intermediate steamers from £89 to £36;

(iii) per K.P.M. with transhipment at Durban from £117 and £92 to £48 and £44;

(iv) per Bullard King and Company's steamers from £50 to £43 according to classes and types of steamers.

Government servants are allowed a rebate of from 15 to 20 per cent. by all the above companies.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving the port during the past three years were as follows:—

### *Inwards.*

		1935.		1936.		1937.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Foreign	{ Steamers ...	200	625,175	206	641,150	205	633,927
	Sailing ships	—	—	1	88	1	88
	Totals	200	625,175	207	641,238	206	634,015
Coasting	{ Steamers ...	11	8,197	11	9,045	13	5,811
	Sailing ships	15	2,413	14	1,465	9	423
	Totals	26	10,610	25	10,510	22	6,234

### *Outwards.*

		1935.		1936.		1937.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Foreign	{ Steamers ...	201	622,274	205	645,315	203	635,170
	Sailing ships	—	—	1	88	1	88
	Totals	201	622,274	206	645,403	204	635,258
Coasting	{ Steamers ...	10	8,166	12	9,924	13	5,187
	Sailing ships	15	2,402	14	1,465	9	423
	Totals	25	10,568	26	11,389	22	5,610

## XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown lands, water supplies, and State irrigation.

*Buildings.*—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor, Mahé de Labourdonnais, in 1740. Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the instrument of capitulation of the island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library and quarters for the Governor and officials. The

former and present residences of the Governors at "Mon Plaisir", Pamplemousses, and "Le Reduit", Moka, respectively, also date back to the French occupation. The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the island one mental and eight general hospitals, and one leper asylum. An old hospital, the Grand River North-West Hospital, built in 1769 for seamen, is used when necessary as a quarantine station for plague.

Damage is caused to a considerable extent by white ants which are particularly active in the low-lying districts of the island.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water works, roads and buildings.

*Sewerage Works of Port Louis.*—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922, the scheme was revised by Messrs Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

*Bridges.*—There exist 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest having spans of 150 feet. Only a few timber bridges remain and these are being gradually replaced by ferro concrete structures for double line of traffic and heavy loading.

*Water Works.*—The water supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North-West at a distance of about four miles from the town at a level of 250 feet. This supply was handed over by the Municipality to the Public Works Department in 1922. The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated. The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is 5 million gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of 2 million gallons. The revenue is approximately Rs.60,000 and goes to the Municipality of Port Louis.

The water supply of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River Districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons. The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands. The whole of this water supply is filtered through sand filters at "La Marie", about 2 miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons. The population served by

this supply is approximately 120,000 and the average daily consumption  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons. The Mare-aux-Vacoas water supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. The supply is limited to 900,000 gallons per day. The water is chlorinated after filtration. The revenue is approximately Rs.148,000.

The water supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from 27 different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000 and is composed mostly of the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains. The revenue is approximately Rs.90,000 and goes to the District Boards.

*Irrigation Works.*—There are no works in progress at present. The works executed up to now provide for the irrigation of about 3,000 acres under sugar cane plantation and tobacco in the district of Black River from La Ferme Reservoir, and for a few hundred acres in the District of Pamplemousses from La Nicoliere Reservoir.

### XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

#### Justice.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court and 11 District Magistracies.

*Supreme Court.*—The Supreme Court which sits in the capital—Port Louis—consists of one Chief Judge and two Puisne Judges. It has jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters and also as a Court of Admiralty; it also decides appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles, the Judge in Bankruptcy, the Master and Registrar and the inferior Courts of Mauritius.

There is a Bankruptcy Division presided over by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court or by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy.

In 1937, the Supreme Court dealt with 292 civil cases out of 336 which were brought before it. In the course of the same year, 20 persons were brought before this Court and tried on criminal charges, 16 of them being convicted to various terms of imprisonment, one released upon furnishing recognizance, two discharged and one remanded to the next Assizes. No sentence of death was pronounced.

Criminal cases are tried by a Judge and a Jury. Matrimonial cases, bankruptcy matters and civil actions in which the sum involved is less than Rs.3,000 are heard by one Judge. Civil actions in respect of claims over Rs.3,000 are heard by two

Judges. Where, however, the magnitude of the interests at stake or the importance of the question of fact or law involved make it desirable, a case is heard by three Judges.

*Magistrates.*—There is a Magistrate's Court in each of the nine districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems each sitting in two divisions.

The jurisdiction of a Magistrate sitting alone is limited:—

- (a) in civil cases, to actions wherein the sum of money or matters in dispute do not exceed Rs.1,000 in value;
- (b) in criminal matters, to offences for whose punishment the penal and other laws of the Colony provide imprisonment with or without hard labour not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding Rs.1,000 (except in particular cases expressly provided for in any special enactment).

Certain offences not triable by a Magistrate sitting alone and, at the request of the Procureur-General whenever he may consider it expedient to do so, nearly all offences triable by a Magistrate sitting alone, are tried by a Bench of three Magistrates, whose jurisdiction is made to extend to the imposition of penal servitude not exceeding three years and a fine not exceeding Rs.3,000.

An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English Law. There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire, but facilities are given to very poor litigants, both before the Supreme and the Inferior Courts to obtain leave to sue in *forma pauperis*. In Supreme Court cases, counsel are ever ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge, while in Assize cases counsel is always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners. The Dependencies are visited periodically by a Magistrate.

The Dependency of Rodrigues is administered by a Magistrate, who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius, and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

The Magistrates heard 6,444 civil cases and 10,326 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences, and held—

173 coroners' inquests;

28 preliminary inquiries into crimes and serious misdemeanours; and

1 inquiry under "Commission Rogatoire".

### **Police.**

*Organization.*—The Mauritius Police Force has an establishment of 21 Gazetted Officers and 596 other ranks. The personnel of the Force is almost entirely recruited locally, there being at present only 11 Officers and Warrant Officers classified as "Home-born" who were posted from England or transferred from other Forces.

The Force is organized mainly as a "Civil" as distinct from a "Military" Police Force, but recruits are instructed in the use of the rifle, an armed detachment is maintained at Headquarters, and those who have qualified in preliminary tests fire a musketry course every year.

The establishment is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Revenue and Motor Vehicle Control Branch, Training School, Harbour Police, Railway Police, District Police, Rodrigues Police and the Police Band.

Police Headquarters is situated in the historic Line Barracks of Port Louis, and the District Police are distributed in 55 Stations of varying size and importance.

*Crime.*—The total number of offences of all kinds reported to the police during the year 1937 was 23,052, which shows a decrease on the figure for 1936, which was 23,986, and also a decrease on the average of 24,161 for the past three years.

More than half of these offences are of a minor character or refer to statutory and revenue contraventions.

The more serious offences are classified as follows:—

Offences against the person ...	...	10,348 in 1937
Offences against the person ...	...	8,620 in 1936
Offences against property ...	...	3,713 in 1937
Offences against property ...	...	3,169 in 1936

The number of persons prosecuted in connexion with these 23,052 offences was 8,310, of whom 7,354 were convicted, 591 otherwise disposed of and 365 pending trial at the end of the year.

Corresponding figures for the previous year were 9,946 persons prosecuted, 8,918 convicted, 591 otherwise disposed of and 437 pending trial at the end of the year.

### **Prisons.**

*Organization.*—The Mauritius Prisons Department has an establishment of four Gazetted Officers, who are appointed from England, and 108 other ranks recruited locally.

The Department is placed under the charge of the Commissioner of Police, who holds the appointment of Superintendent of Prisons, and is responsible for the management and control of the two penal institutions of the Colony, Port Louis and Beau Bassin Prisons.

Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners, association cells for 40 women in a special block, and contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two chief officers and two matrons.

Every male convicted prisoner is sent to this prison and on admission is classified as (1) Adult Felon, (2) Adult Hard Labour, (3) Adult Misdemeanant, (4) Juvenile Felon or Hard Labour, (5) Juvenile Misdemeanant, or (6) Special.

Felons are prisoners sentenced to penal servitude and misdemeanants are those sentenced to imprisonment without Hard Labour or for failing to pay fines.

Groups (1), (2) and (4) are subdivided into First Offenders and Recidivists.

Prisoners classified in Group (1) and Recidivists of Group (2) sentenced to 14 days and upwards normally serve their sentence at Beau Bassin which contains 756 separate cells for males only while all misdemeanants, Special Class and well-conducted Adults and Juvenile First Offenders are accommodated at Port Louis.

Debtors, women and waiting trial prisoners are also given separate accommodation at Port Louis Prison.

*Labour.*—Hard Labour consists of quarrying, stone breaking, cutting firewood, and agricultural work outside the prisons, and tailoring, boot, sail and mattress making, tin-smith work and black-smithing, carpentry and cabinet making, blind, mat and basket making and baking inside the prison's workshop.

*Population.*—The number of persons admitted to Port Louis Prison during the year was 2,559, which is 136 less than in the previous year and 524 less than the average for the preceding five years. Of the 2,559 persons, 1,562 were convicted of whom 1,072 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or less. The convicted prisoners comprised 1,492 men and 70 women. The daily average population was 419·82 compared with 451·15 in 1936 and the number of persons in prison on 31st December, 1937, was 363 compared with 379 in 1936, and 417 in 1935.

Of the 363 persons in prison, 349 were serving sentence and comprised 342 men and seven women.

The number of persons who served sentence of imprisonment in lieu of paying fines was 651, including 18 women.

*Health.*—There were ten deaths in hospital as compared with eight in the preceding year.

### Industrial School.

The Barkly Industrial School for boys is an institution for the training of juvenile offenders and vagrants, boys living in criminal surroundings, and those who cannot be controlled at home or in orphanages, etc.

The school is under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police and has a resident staff of one chief officer and 12 instructors and assistants. It occupies a group of buildings formerly used as an hospital and comprises large grounds which are fully cultivated as gardens, etc.

The number of boys in the school at the end of the year was 118, compared with 91 in 1936 and 77 in 1935. The number of admissions was 60 and discharges 28 for the whole year.

A visiting committee instituted by law looks after the general welfare of the inmates of the school and exercises a beneficent influence on the institution.

#### XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Fifty-one Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor between the 15th of January and the 20th of December, 1937.

The majority of these Ordinances deals with matters of domestic concern amongst which the following are of considerable importance.

*Law and Order.*—(i) Ordinance No. 11 of 1937, brings up to date the Fisheries Laws of the Colony in a consolidated form.

(ii) Ordinance No. 14 of 1937, provides for the protection of human beings against the danger arising from the presence of game snares and wells over the countryside.

(iii) Ordinance No. 24 of 1937, amends the District Court (Jurisdiction) Ordinance, 1888.

(iv) Ordinance No. 36 of 1937, brings up to date the Distillery Laws of the Colony in a consolidated form.

*Finance.*—(i) Ordinance No. 5 of 1937, amends the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1936, and provides for the transfer of deposits from the Post Office Savings Banks of the British Empire to the local Government Savings Bank and *vice versa*.

(ii) Ordinance No. 15 of 1937, provides for the raising of the loan of Rs.2,000,000 by the Colonial Government for the purpose of financing the newly created Mauritius Agricultural Bank.

(iii) Ordinances Nos. 18, 19, 20 of 1937, amend the Beau Bassin and Rose Hill Ordinance, 1895, the Quatre Bornes Ordinance, 1895, and the Curepipe Ordinance, 1889, and provide for the grant by Government of a yearly contribution to the township Boards created under the latter Ordinances, whilst affording to Government some measure of control over the financial administration of these Boards.

(iv) Ordinance No. 39 of 1937, provides for the control of the export of sugar from the Colony in line with the International Sugar Agreement of 1937.

*Labour.*—(i) Ordinance No. 8 of 1937, provides for the protection of dockers from accidents whilst unloading ships in line with the International Labour Convention of 1932.

(ii) Ordinance No. 32 of 1937, amends the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931, and provides for the grant of compensation to workmen for occupational diseases.

(iii) Ordinance No. 38 of 1937, provides for the proper marking of deck lines and load lines on ships, to secure a greater margin of safety for life at sea.

All these Ordinances have in view the social and economic progress of the population of this Colony and attempt to work to that end.

A list of the more important Ordinances is given in Appendix I to this Report.

## XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

### Banking.

There are three private banks in the Colony, viz.:—

- (a) The Mauritius Commercial Bank;
- (b) The Mercantile Bank of India; and
- (c) Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has a paid-up capital of Rs.2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs.200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1937 was Rs.8,729,260. The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid-up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1937, amounted to Rs.2,763,810. Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid-up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local Bank on 31st December, 1937, amounted to Rs.3,248,294. This Bank which is affiliated with Barclay's Bank, Limited, was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836), and the National Bank of South Africa, Limited. A branch of the last named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclay's Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1937, was 39,382, compared with 38,990 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to

Rs.6,554,221 as against Rs.6,495,031. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank, which was established under Ordinance No. 1 of 1936, commenced operations on the 5th January, 1937. The Capital of the Bank (Rs.10,000,000) is provided by Government, which raised loans at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum for this purpose. Of these loans, the sum of Rs.3,600,000 was raised locally, the balance being raised in London. The annual Interest and Sinking Fund Charges, amounting in all to Rs.368,740 for 1938-9, are met by the Bank.

The Bank, which is neither a Government institution nor a Government department, has been introduced to lower interest charges on agricultural advances which, it is considered, impose an undue burden on the sugar industry and unduly depress wages. Subject to the provisions of the ordinance which constituted it a corporate body, the bank has complete discretion as to the conduct of its business and the nature and account of its loans. The consent of the Managing Director, who is appointed by the Secretary of State, is necessary to the grant of any loan. A measure of Government control, however, exists and is exercised by the following methods:—

(a) The members of the Board of Directors, other than the Managing Director, are appointed by the Governor, who determines the amount of their fees;

(b) While the Board appoints its own servants the amount of their salary is subject to the approval of the Governor;

(c) The funds of the Board are derived exclusively from the Government;

(d) The methods of accounting, the books to be maintained and the nature of the auditor's certificates are prescribed by the Government, and the form of Balance Sheet is prescribed by the Treasurer.

### Currency.

In March, 1934, an Ordinance was enacted to make provision with respect to the currency notes of the Colony, and to place the issue of such currency notes upon a permanent basis. By this Ordinance the Currency Commissioners are required to issue, on demand, currency notes in exchange for sterling lodged with the Crown Agents in London, and to pay on demand sterling in London in exchange for currency notes lodged with them. The rate at which these exchanges are to be made is fixed at one rupee for one shilling and six pence sterling, and the minimum transaction is £5,000 or its equivalent.

The Currency Commissioners are entitled to charge commission not exceeding one and three-quarters per centum in addition to the cost of any telegram sent in connexion with any transfer.

The effect has been to substitute for the Indian rupee a new paper rupee based on sterling, and to limit official exchange fluctuations to a maximum spread of three and a half per centum.

Local commercial practice is such that the effective rate of exchange is the rate at which the banks sell sterling, and not the mean between the buying and selling rates. At the time the Ordinance was introduced the rate was Rs.13·70 for £1 by telegraphic transfer, or approximately one rupee for one shilling and five pence half-penny sterling. With a view to avoiding any sudden fluctuation in the actual rate of exchange, the commission which the Currency Commissioners were authorized to charge when selling sterling was fixed, in the first instance, at the maximum of one and three-quarters per cent., making the effective official exchange rate Rs.13·57 for £1 in respect of amounts of £5,000 or over.

The rate charged by the Currency Commissioners when buying sterling has been fixed at one-quarter per cent.

The value of the currency is maintained by a Note Security Fund held by the Crown Agents and invested in Government Securities (other than those of the Colony). Profits arising from currency transactions and income from the investments of the Note Security Fund must be applied in the first instance to maintaining the Security Fund at the value equal to the face value of currency notes in circulation. If the value of the Note Security Fund reaches one hundred and ten per cent. of the face value of notes in circulation, all profits then accrue to the revenue of the Colony.

Subsidiary silver coinage was introduced under an Ordinance passed in September, 1934. The coins are not normally redeemable, but the seignorage on the issue is invested.

The value of the currency notes of five rupees, ten rupees and one thousand rupees, in circulation on 31st December, 1937, was Rs.9,417,485 and that of Mauritius silver coins on the same date Rs.2,055,000.

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius rupee, equivalent to 1s. 6d. sterling, divided into 100 cents.

The coinage in circulation is the silver rupee, half rupee, quarter rupee, and 20-cent and 10-cent pieces, and the bronze 5-cent, 2-cent and 1-cent pieces.

### **Weights and Measures.**

The metric system is in general use; the following special French and local measures are, however, still to be found:—

#### *Measures of Length and Area:—*

1 ligne Francaise	= 2.258 millimetres or 0.088 inch.
12 lignes	= 1 French inch.
12 French inches	= 1 French foot.
1 French foot	= 1.06 English feet.
1 lieue	= 2½ English miles (approx.).
1 gaulette	= 10 French feet.
1 arpent	= 40,000 square French feet or 1.04 acres.
1 toise	= 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches.

#### *Measures of Capacity:—*

1 barrique	= 50 gallons (cane juice, etc.).
1 tiercon	= 190 to 192 litres (molasses).
1 velte	= 7.45 litres (coconut oil).
1 bouteille	= 800 cubic centimetres (liquid).
1 chopine	= ½ bouteille.
1 corde	= 80 French cubic feet or 96.82 English cubic feet (firewood).

#### *Measures of Weight:—*

1 gamelle	= 5.250 kilograms.
1 livre	= 500 grammes or 1.10 English pounds.

## **XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.**

### **Revenue and Expenditure.**

The Revenue of the Colony for the year ended 30th June, 1937, amounted to Rs.15,923,784, and was Rs.766,084 more than the Estimate and Rs.572,798 more than that of the previous year.

The expenditure for the same period was Rs.15,506,431 being Rs.506,182 above the Estimate and Rs.811,787 above that of the previous year.

The revenue during the financial year 1936-7 exceeded expenditure by Rs.417,353 and the surplus of assets over liabilities on 30th June, 1937, amounted to Rs.18,263,556.

Of the expenditure for 1936-7, Rs.4,956,561 were spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.10,549,870 on "Other Charges". The corresponding figures for 1935-6 were Rs.4,946,200 for "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.9,748,444 on "Other Charges".

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1932-33 ... ... ...	30,200,418	13,810,589
1933-34 ... ... ...	16,567,110	14,634,339
1934-35 ... ... ...	22,964,244*	20,650,954
1935-36 ... ... ...	15,350,986	14,694,644
1936-37 ... ... ...	15,923,784	15,506,431

The revenue normally becoming due and collected during the year 1932-3 was Rs. 14,503,504, and the increase in the amount shown for that year was due to special adjustments comprising, *inter alia*, the following transfers to Revenue.

	<i>Rs.</i>
Widows' and Orphans' Fund ... ... ...	5,032,348
Government Scholarship Fund ... ... ...	539,769
Improvement and Development Fund ... ... ...	6,317,718
Mauritius Loan, 1922 ... ... ...	1,362,679
Unexpended balance, Sugar Industry Loan, 1929 ...	7,316
	<hr/>
	Rs. 13,259,830
	<hr/>

The Colonial Government pays a military contribution of 5½ per cent. of its total revenue (inclusive only of net excess of revenue on railways, irrigation, Mare aux Vacoas and other water works but exclusive of land sales and special export duty on sugar) towards the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

The amount paid as contribution in 1936-7 was £48,650, of which £41,000 was in respect of the estimated cost of the garrison for 1936-7 and £7,650, the difference between the actual and estimated cost of the garrison for 1934-5 and for 1935-6 £2,532 and £5,118, respectively.

### Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1937, was £2,977,871. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £1,857,369 compared with £1,836,347 on 30th June, 1936.

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30th June, 1937.

<i>Liabilities.</i>	<i>Assets.</i>	
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Other Colonial Governments.	43,687	Cash Balances ... ...
Joint Colonial Fund ...	453,333	Imprests ... ...
Deposits ... ...	722,127	Advances ... ...
Appropriated Funds ...	9,794,962	Unallocated Stores ...
Balance : Surplus of Assets over Liabilities at 30th June, 1937.	18,263,556	Appropriated Funds Invested.
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Rs. 29,277,665	Rs. 29,277,665
	<hr/>	<hr/>

\* Including Rs 7,882,380 Special Revenue.

## Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and Their Yield.

The main heads of taxation with their yield for the current year as compared with the preceding year are the following:—

	1935-36. Rs.	1936-37. Rs.
Customs—Import duties ...	4,533,469	4,631,890
,, Export duties ...	450,777	1,129,011
Excise duty on rum ...	1,680,232	1,728,393
Licence duties ...	1,099,124	1,078,375
Tobacco excise ...	1,247,492	1,306,227
Taxes on vehicles and animals ...	424,477	446,089
House tax ...	208,411	260,808
Poll tax ...	429,502	551,165

### Customs Duties.

The Revenue from Customs duties for the year 1937 was Rs.4,925,422 for Imports and Rs.1,223,156 for Exports.

The figures for the two previous years were:—

	<i>Import duty.</i> Rs.	<i>Export duty.</i> Rs.
1936	4,640,335	566,369
1935	4,650,711	816,385

### Customs Tariff (Summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty on the principal imports and exports on the 31st December, 1937:—

#### IMPORTS.

Rice ...	R. 0·63 per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs. 22·00 per hectolitre.
Dholl ...	Rs. 1·14 per 100 kilos.	Wines in cases up to 14° (still).	R. 0·33 per litre.
Flour ...	R. 0·94 per 100 kilos.	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs. 5·00 per litre.
Fertilizers ...	R. 0·11 to Rs. 1·10 per 100 kilos.	Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs. 15·00 per kilo.
Petroleum oil ...	Rs. 5·28 per hectolitre.	Tobacco, cigarettes.	Rs. 16·50 per kilo.
Petroleum spirits	Rs. 14·00 per hectolitre.	Vegetable oil, other than olive.	Rs. 5·50 to Rs. 9·00 per 100 kilos.
Soap, common...	Rs. 1·93 per 100 kilos.	Most manufactured articles.	5 to 55 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> , with an average of about 15 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .

#### EXPORTS.

Sugar ...	R. 0·46 per 100 kilos.	† Aloe fibre	... Rs. 3·0 per 1,000 kilos.
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NOTE.—\*The duty on sugar is only for special purposes as under:—

- R. 0·03 per cent. kilos for destruction of *Phytalus Smithi*;
- R. 0·03 „ „ „ College of Agriculture;
- R. 0·04 „ „ „ Sugar Industry Reserve Fund;
- R. 0·36 „ „ „ in refund of loans.

† The duty on aloe fibre is Rs. 3 per 1,000 kilos in refund of loan to the hemp industry.

## **Principal Preferential Rates on Imports.**

## **Excise and Stamp Duties.**

The duty on rum for home consumption for potable use is Rs.2.75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

Three distilleries worked periodically during 1937. These three distilleries form an annex to sugar mills; in all cases spirits are distilled from molasses and the strength of the spirits produced varies from 30 to 42 degrees Cartier. The bulk is produced at 39 degrees Cartier or below and when broken down to 23 degrees Cartier, is consumed locally as potable rum, though it has the general characteristics of rectified spirit.

The remainder of the spirits produced is either exported or used after denaturation or compounding for lighting and heating and power purposes, for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs, perfumed spirits and for the manufacture of vinegar. The attempts made to find an export market for locally produced alcohol were more successful during the year under review. The quantity exported was 60,566 litres for the period July, 1936, to June, 1937, as compared with 22,267 litres for the previous corresponding period.

The duty on spirits to be denatured for heating and lighting purposes is 4 cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

Owing to the quantity of electrical power available and the organization for its distribution, comparatively little use is made of locally produced alcohol for lighting purposes. Where electrical power is not available kerosene is a more popular illuminant. The poorest classes, who require little illumination since they mostly retire at nightfall, use coconut oil or similar local product. There is little call for artificial heating of houses and most cooking is done by locally produced wood charcoal on charcoal stoves. Locally produced alcohol might be used

largely for cooking purposes were a satisfactory type of stove available. The import duty on denatured or methylated alcohol is Rs.30 per litre.

The quantity of spirits denatured for heating and lighting during the last two years is shown below:—

		1935-36.	1936-37.
Litres	...     ...	141,410	180,400
		<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Excise duty	...     ...	5,764.13	7,406.16

The duty on spirits to be denatured for use as motor fuel is 4 cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier. Attempts on a commercial scale to utilize locally produced alcohol in various forms for power purposes have been in progress for about 20 years but have had comparatively little success. The increasing use of heavy fuel oil and compression ignition type engines make any further development in the use of the local alcohol improbable in present circumstances. Protection is given to the local industry by imposing a customs duty on imported motor spirits of Rs.14 per hectolitre.

The following statement shows the quantity of spirits denatured during the last two years for use as industrial alcohol:—

		1935-36.	1936-37.
Litres	...     ...	243,800	330,600
		<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Excise duty	...     ...	9,752	13,224

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of "alcoholats" in accordance with the formulae laid down in the British Pharmacopoeia or the French Codex or any other medicinal tinctures and drugs as notified in Gazette is Rs. 2.50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

With the exception of certain traditional local preparations, locally produced tinctures, etc., have provided little competition to the imported articles which pay an import duty at 13.2 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following table shows the quantity of alcohol used during the last two years for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs:—

		1935-36.	1936-37.
Quantity	...     ...	Litres.	Litres.
		9,853	5,487
		<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Excise duty	...     ...	1,380.10	1,295.10

The duty of alcohol delivered for the manufacture of perfumed spirits is 18 cents per litre. The position as regards locally

produced perfumed spirits is similar to that of medicinal tinctures. One or two preparations are in popular local demand, but in spite of the fairly high protective import duty of 33 per cent. *ad valorem* there is little demand for other products. Attempts have been made to find an export market but without success.

The quantity of spirits issued for the manufacture of perfumed spirits during the last two years was as follows:—

	1935-36. <i>Litres.</i>	1936-37. <i>Litres.</i>
Quantity ... ... .	6,130 <i>Rs.</i>	4,901 <i>Rs.</i>
Excise duty ... ... .	3,065	2,450·50

The duty on vinegar is Rs.1·70 per hectolitre, on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength by Salleron's acidimeter, and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

Locally produced vinegar is manufactured exclusively by the slow oxidation of alcohol. The production figures for the past years were:—

	<i>Litres.</i>	<i>Duty.</i>
July, 1935 to June, 1936 ...	24,500	Rs. 419·96
July, 1936 to June, 1937 ...	23,800	Rs. 411·45

The corresponding import duty on vinegar is Rs.3·50 per hectolitre full rate and Rs.1·65 preferential rate.

According to the Excise figures, the number of litres of spirits distilled in 1936-7 (July to June) was 1,092,298 litres, as compared with an average of 961,315 litres for the past five years.

The duty on wine and other liquors (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony which contain more than 4 degrees of alcohol according to Gay-Lussac's alcoholometer is as follows:—

- (i) On all such liquor not exceeding 14 degrees by Gay-Lussac's alcoholometer a duty of 15 cents per litre;
- (ii) On all such liquor exceeding 14 degrees a duty at the same rate and on the same scale as the Customs duty on wine payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

Practically no grapes are grown in Mauritius and the local wine is produced from imported dried fruits, principally raisins, sugar and other ingredients. Attempts to produce wine from local fruits such as pineapples, guavas, bananas, etc., have not been successful. There has been a substantial development in the wine industry during the past year from the point of view of quantity, and considerable research work is being done in the improvement of the quality of the produce and in studying the many variations in fermentation largely caused by difference in temperature, atmospheric humidity, etc.

*Local wine issued:*—

			<i>Litres.</i>
July, 1935 to June, 1936	...	...	325,366
„ 1936 „ „ 1937	...	...	536,876

An Excise duty of Rs. 4 per kilog. is charged on leaf tobacco used for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption.

According to the official figures, the quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1937 was 372,652·4 kilos, as compared with 362,587 kilos in 1936.

The Excise duty collected on tobacco during the last two financial years is given below:—

	<i>1935-36.</i>	<i>1936-37.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Tobacco	... ... ... 1,247,492·40	1,306,226·80

The figures for the calendar year are:—

	<i>Year 1936.</i>	<i>Year 1937.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Tobacco Excise	... ... 1,281,086·00	1,319,380

The Government Tobacco Warehouse, controlled by the Tobacco Board, has proved a most useful institution for the grading and general control of tobacco grown in the Colony. It ensures for the planters a ready market for their crop, and for the manufacturers an assured source of supply at controlled prices of graded leaf. In spite of its efforts the Board has so far been unable to gain any export trade.

The Stamp Laws were amended and consolidated by the passing on 23rd November, 1926, of Ordinance No. 22 of 1926.

This Ordinance was put into force on 23rd July, 1927, by Proclamation No. 32 of 1927.

Stamp duties are of three kinds:—

- (1) A duty in proportion to the size of the paper used;
- (2) A fixed duty; and
- (3) An *ad valorem* duty.

The Stamp Ordinance No. 22 of 1926 was amended in 1932 by the passing of Ordinance No. 26 of 1932 to provide for the increase from 4 to 10 cents of the stamp duty on cheques drawn on banks in and out of the Colony, and on receipts as defined in Article 2 (5) of the Stamp (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1926.

### House Tax.

*Rates.*—One per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs.1,000.

*Yield.*—The amount collected during the financial year 1936-7 was Rs.260,808.

*Method of Assessment.*—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value. In arriving at this figure, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or probable rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building.

*Method of Collection.*—For the purpose of collecting the house tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year, notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the district in which it is levied or to the Chief Cashier, Treasury.

### Graduated Poll Tax.

A Graduated Poll Tax was imposed in 1934 on all taxable income accruing in, derived from, or received in the Colony during the year preceding the year of assessment, subject to specified exemptions.

The tax, which falls on residents and non-residents is peculiar to Mauritius. It is payable in half-yearly instalments by persons (including legal entities) whose income exceeds Rs.5,000.

The tax scale rises from Rs.50 (with marginal relief) on incomes exceeding Rs.5,000 but not exceeding Rs.7,000 to Rs.5,150 on incomes exceeding Rs.60,000 but not exceeding Rs.70,000. The tax on incomes exceeding Rs.70,000 is Rs.6,150.

The tax must be rendered with a Return from the taxpayer, but the Commissioner may refuse the Return and raise an assessment subject to a right of objection and appeal to the High Court.

No provision exists for:—

- (a) Losses to be carried forward.
- (b) Personal or depreciation allowances.
- (c) Dominion income tax relief.
- (d) Deduction of tax at source.

The main Ordinance was amended in 1935 chiefly to facilitate an equitable administration of the tax as regards allowances for interest paid, and to provide for reciprocation in exemption of profits from the business of Shipping.

*Yield.*—The amount collected since the inception of the tax has been as follows:—

			Rs.
1934-35	...	...	540,566
1935-36	...	...	429,502
1936-37	...	...	551,165

The estimated yield for 1937-8 is Rs. 550,000.

**XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.**

The most noteworthy events of the year were the celebrations in the Colony of Their Majesties Coronation. The festivities organized by the Coronation Committee included a combined Navy and Military parade at the Champ de Mars, which was attended by large crowds and 1,000 school children from all parts of the Colony; religious services at the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals; a race meeting at the Champ de Mars and an open air fete at the "Pleasure Grounds" in Port Louis. On the occasion, a sum of Rs.24,000 was distributed to the poor in all districts of the Colony and sports meetings were also organized in all primary schools.

The island was visited on the 17th January, 1937, by three French Aviators who landed at Mon Choisy after having flown from France via the continent of Africa, Madagascar and Reunion Islands. They left the Colony on the 20th January by the same route, taking mails with them. The Colony was also visited by H.M.S. *Norfolk* from the 1st to the 13th May, 1937, and by the French sloop *Bougainville* from the 27th September to the 1st November, 1937.

His Excellency Sir W. E. F. Jackson left the Colony on the 7th June, 1937, to take up his new appointment in British Guiana, and Mr. E. W. Evans, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, assumed the administration of the Colony on the same day. Sir Wilfrid Jackson's successor, the Honourable Sir Bede Edmund Hugh Clifford, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.V.O., arrived in the Colony on the 23rd October, 1937.

## APPENDIX I

Fifty-one Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1937, the more important of which are tabulated as follows:—

No.	TITLE.
8.	An Ordinance to provide for the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships or at any dock, wharf or quay.
11.	An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Law on Fisheries.
14.	An Ordinance to make provision for the protection of human beings against the danger arising from the presence of game snares and wells.
15.	An Ordinance to empower the Colonial Government to raise a loan not exceeding the sum of Rs.2,000,000 for the purpose of financing the Mauritius Agricultural Bank.
18.	An Ordinance to amend the Beau Bassin and Rose Hill Ordinance, 1895.
19.	An Ordinance to amend the Quatre Bornes Ordinance, 1895.
20.	An Ordinance to amend the Curepipe Ordinance, 1889.
24.	An Ordinance to amend the District Court (Criminal Jurisdiction) Ordinance, 1888.
29.	An Ordinance to amend the Deportation (Aliens) Ordinance, 1936.
30.	An Ordinance to amend the Deportation (British Subjects) Ordinance, 1936.
32.	An Ordinance to provide for the payment of compensation to workmen for diseases contracted in the course of their employment and to amend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931.
36.	An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law on Distilleries.
38.	An Ordinance to provide for the marking of deck lines and load lines on ships.
39.	An Ordinance to control the export of sugar.
43.	An Ordinance to empower the Board of Commissioners of Curepipe to make regulations for securing order and the preservation, upkeep and control of property in the gardens and parks of Curepipe.
49.	An Ordinance to amend the District Boards Ordinance, 1902.

## APPENDIX II

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAURITIUS WHICH ARE  
OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	Agents for Sale.	Price.
T'Eylandt Mauritius : Esquisses Historiques, 1698-1710.*	Out of print.	—
L'Ile de France : Esquisses Historiques, 1715-1833. By Albert Pitot.*	ditto	—
Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unenville.*	ditto	—
Le Folk-lore Mauricien (Maison-neuve, Paris, 1888).	ditto	—
Le Patois Créole Mauricien (Mauritius, 1880). By Charles Baissac.	ditto	—
Renseignements pour servir à l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1890). By Adrien d'Epinay.	ditto	—
Mauritius Illustrated. By A. MacMillan.*	ditto	—
Annual Reports on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of Mauritius.*	His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.	2s. (approx.).
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Scale 8 Miles to the Inch

Reduced from the Military Map  
By L.T. Louis-Auguste  
Surveyor P.W.D.

*L.T. Louis-Auguste*



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- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
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